

THE SAD SAGA OF KANGA

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Tory contenders are neck and neck

Right in turmoil as Redwood switches to Clarke

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

THE Tory leadership race moved towards a bitter climax last night after John Redwood plunged the Right into disarray by backing Kenneth Clarke and provoked Baroness Thatcher into endorsing William Hague.

With the outcome likely to come down to a handful of votes, Mr Hague and Mr Clarke, who was boosted by a deal that will mean Mr Redwood becoming Shadow Chancellor if Mr Clarke wins, were engaged in a final brutal battle for the votes of the 38 MPs who supported Mr Redwood in the second round.

After a day of acrimony, arm-twisting and accusations of blind ambition against Mr Redwood, Mr Hague staged a spirited fightback last night, with Lady Thatcher, desperate to stop Mr Clarke, riding once more into battle. The Hague camp claimed that a dozen of the former Redwoodites had switched to them. A similar number appeared to be pledged to Mr Clarke, but some of the undecided looked set to back him as well.

A survey by *The Times* suggested that the contenders were running neck and neck, with the votes of an undecided ten MPs decisive.

The former Prime Minister, who previously had refused to show her hand, stood outside the Commons with Mr Hague and said: "I most earnestly hope he wins." Later she toured the members' tea-room looking for likely converts to the Hague cause.

She said the Clarke-Redwood deal was an "incredible alliance of opposites that can



"I most earnestly hope he wins," said Lady Thatcher as she endorsed William Hague. Her public declaration was prompted by John Redwood's switch to the Clarke camp

only lead to further grief". Mr Redwood, taking the gamble of his life, faced furious attacks from right-wing supporters of Mr Hague. Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, accused him of "breath-taking cynicism". He said that the Redwood-Clarke agreement was an "alliance built on sand".

Sir Peter Tapsell, MP for Louth and Horncastle, described Mr Redwood's decision as "one of the most contemptible and discreditable actions by a senior British politician I can recall during my 38 years in the Commons".

All over Westminster right-wingers were engaged in furious arguments with each other over Mr Redwood's decision. He and Mr Clarke agreed to a deal on Tuesday night only hours after the second ballot in which Mr Clarke surprisingly beat Mr Hague by two votes. Its key component was Mr Clarke's acceptance of Mr Redwood's demand that Tory MPs and

Clarke and Redwood have formed an incredible alliance of opposites which can only lead to further grief

Baroness Thatcher

John and I hold ourselves in mutual regard. We have always agreed on all the important issues of domestic policy

Kenneth Clarke

Ken Clarke is a big hitter. I am a big hitter too. I am able to land some big hits on the Labour Government

William Hague

Ken and I are united in opposing the particular single currency which is on offer — it is our duty to work together

John Redwood

members of the Shadow Cabinet would be allowed a free vote on the single currency if necessary. Later in the evening, Mr Redwood took the opinions of his closest supporters and consulted his constituency officers, who backed Mr Clarke in their own poll.

It was sealed early yesterday when Mr Clarke told Mr Redwood that he wanted him to be Shadow Chancellor if he won the contest.

Mr Redwood emerged from the offices of the Conservative

2000 think-tank to announce his conversion and appeared later with Mr Clarke at a joint press conference at Church House, Westminster.

Mr Clarke insisted that the pact was an agreement built to endure through the next five years of Opposition and into a Conservative government.

Mr Redwood explained his decision, by saying that he wanted to end the civil war in the Tory party by coming to "an honourable peace". He moved to reassure his sup-

porters over the key issue of Europe, saying: "My principled objections to the single currency will remain my position and I will now put this around the Cabinet table. There will be a free vote and the right for free speech on the issue should the matter arise at some point in the future."

Mr Redwood said: "In the leadership election campaign I made it clear we needed to bring an end to the civil war in the Conservative Party. I said we needed to stop the Balkan-

isation of the party with little groups in little cells in little corners and little rooms arguing through the media with each other."

Mr Clarke said they were both determined that the rifts that had divided them in the past should never reappear. "This is not an agreement that has been entered into for the next 24 hours. This agreement is for five years at least. John and I are going to work closely together at the heart of Opposition and at the heart of

Conservative government." Last night the contest seemed so close that some MPs were talking of the prospect of a dead heat. It will almost certainly be determined by today's last-minute efforts by the camps to bring the undecided on board.

Mr Hague in the meantime flatly dismissed calls by the Clarke-Redwood duo that he should now quit the race. At a news conference at the Atrium wine bar in Westminster, more than 40 of his supporters put on a show of force. Mr Hague dismissed the Clarke-Redwood pact as "a deal not a solution" and said that the party needed a clear position around which to unite, "not agreement to differ". He pointed out that, in contrast to Mr Clarke, he had not offered a job to any MP in an attempt to get his or her support.

Unlikely marriage, page 2
William Rees-Mogg, page 22
Leading article
Letters, page 23

Tory Ark sails in to keep young heir afloat

By Matthew Parris

"NOW have you got that? Hague. Would you like to hear the name again? William Hague."

She stood at the St Stephen's entrance to the Commons, the only non-royal woman in Britain whom it is unnecessary to name: it is sufficient to mention the blue suit, the coiffure and the handbag.

"Move to your left, Lady Thatcher!" Alarm melted as she recognised this as a camera-call, not a political instruction. Beside her stood a colleague with blonder hair but less of it, and no handbag.

"Move a little closer to him, Lady Thatcher!" For a woman who had moved within days from spurning William Hague's leadership campaign to joining it, she had moved far and fast enough already. Wisps of Mr Hague's remaining hair were lifted by a mischievous breeze: a fleeting impression of moulting cockatoo.

They stood there together for five minutes — mostly in silence — as cameras snapped and crowds pressed the barriers. MPs supporting Hague stood near by, unnoticed. All eyes were on her. She persisted as a living symbol: a portable totem, no longer required to speak, her presence alone conferring ideological benediction.

Tories used to say Margaret Thatcher kept the Ark of the Covenant. These days, she is the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark sailed off to the Commons Tea Room.

But Mr Hague wanted us to know she was his. At a rally beforehand at the Atrium Continued on page 2, col 1

Pol Pot 'has given himself up'

Pol Pot, under whose regime a million Cambodians died from execution, sickness and starvation, was reported by Khmer Rouge radio to have surrendered to his former comrades. However, there was no independent confirmation nor was it even certain that he was still alive. Page 17

Nationwide shuts out carpetbaggers

Nationwide Building Society has blocked speculators hoping it will convert into a bank by refusing to open savings accounts for new customers. Five times more accounts than usual have been opened in recent days by carpetbaggers gambling on a conversion giving them a bonus of at least £1,000. Page 27

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Wimbledon bars cars to beat terrorist bombing scare

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

THOUSANDS of tennis fans will have to park their cars nearly a mile's walk away from the All England club because of fears that the Wimbledon championships will be the target of an IRA bomb scare, similar to the one that disrupted the Grand National.

Police made final preparations yesterday for the event, including the closure of some of the usual car parks and increased searching by guards of the 400,000 spectators expected during the two-week tournament, which begins on Monday.

Worries that Britain's biggest annual international sports event would be subjected to IRA terrorism have caused a no-go area to be set up on the other side of Church Road from the club and 200 yards from the 11,000-capacity new No 1 court, which will be

officially opened on Monday. Instead, many visitors will have to use an alternative public car park, beyond the lake on the other side of Wimbledon Park.

This has a similar capacity to the usual area on the golf course. Car parking for people with special passes will not be affected.

An All England club spokeswoman last night described the decision as an added precaution. "In the light of what happened at Aintree in April, all vehicles may be checked as well as the bags and luggage of spectators."

Closed-circuit television cameras will be used to sweep the stands and cources and search teams will continually inspect the premises of the club.

With the tournament being televised in more than 165 countries, the championships

have a big profile worldwide and would be a natural target for any terrorist action such as marred the Grand National, which had to be postponed from a Saturday to Monday after the bomb hoax.

The precautions mark the biggest security operation at the tournament since 1993, when new measures were introduced after the stabbing of Monica Seles the previous April by a crazed German supporter of Steffi Graf at a tournament in Hamburg.

Seles, who took more than two years to recover from the attack, is the No 2 seed at next week's championships while Graf, who was abused on the Centre Court during the 1993 Wimbledon tournament by another German, has pulled out of this year's event because of injury.

Tennis, pages 50-52

Labour suspends MP for inquiry

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

A LABOUR MP was suspended last night from the party as a result of "serious allegations" that he had failed to disclose a financial matter in the Register of Members' Interests.

Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, suspended Bob Wareing, MP for Liverpool West Derby, and referred the case to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards Commissioner.

The action was taken to underline Tony Blair's determination that no member of his party should be associated with sleaze or financial impropriety, and came within hours of the Parliamentary Labour Party voting to give the Chief Whip a new power to suspend members. Labour party chiefs yesterday made clear that Mr Brown had been given enough prima facie evidence to justify the suspension of the whip,

pending Sir Gordon's decision.

Party sources said that Mr Brown had seen Mr Wareing twice this week to question him about the allegations, which had been sent to him in writing. Mr Wareing, regarded as Old rather than New Labour, has known connections with Bosnia and Indonesia. Party sources confirmed that the alleged irregularities related to overseas issues.

Mr Wareing said in a statement last night: "I welcome the Chief Whip's decision to refer this [the allegations] to Sir Gordon and I also recognise why the Chief Whip has found it necessary to exercise his newly-acquired powers of suspension until Sir Gordon has concluded his inquiry." The statement concluded: "I have confidence in Sir Gordon and will stand by his judgment."

Siamese twins separated in six-hour operation

By Russell Jenkins

SURGEONS at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital separated the Siamese twins, born in Manchester two months ago, in a 6½-hour operation.

The two girls, joined at the chest and abdomen and sharing one liver, are said to be making good progress.

Professor Lewis Spitz, who led the surgical team yesterday, said the operation went very well but it was too

early to say whether the babies would survive such complicated surgery.

The babies, born in St Mary's Hospital, south Manchester, on April 7, were able to breathe normally. Their birth came after the tragic case two years ago of Chloe and Nicole Asbury, who were joined at the breastbone and also shared a liver. They were delivered by the same medical team but died five weeks later after an infection.

This time the team is more confident

of a successful outcome after the operation. The twins' parents, from Cheshire, who have requested privacy, learnt they were expecting Siamese twins after a scan at 20 weeks.

After the operation, Professor Spitz said that although the twins shared only one liver there was a "considerable area of fusion". But he added: "Today's operation went well."

Elizabeth Bryan, of the Multiple Births Foundation, said: "From the

babies' point of view it is a great advantage to be separated at a young age because they have not become dependent on each other emotionally."

The Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital boasts a specialism in conjoined twins. Professor Spitz and Edward Kiely, another member of the operating team, have seen ten sets of Siamese twins since 1984. Separations were carried out in six cases and seven of the twelve children survived.

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Together they stand: of course, they weren't always exactly the best of friends ...

6 The Chancellor is out on a limb [about a single currency]. It is not helpful to have the Chancellor within the Cabinet closing off options when the party expects there to be a proper debate nearer the general election?

Redwood, December 17, 1995

6 I think it is a great pity that the Chancellor has damaged the unity of the Government. Kenneth Clarke is trying to bounce the Cabinet?

Redwood, September 23, 1996, after Clarke said it would be "pathetic" to sign up late for a single currency

6 I'll read it if I get the time. It doesn't look as if it is going to say anything new?

Kenneth Clarke, March 24, 1997, referring to John Redwood's book. Our Currency. Our Country: The Dangers of European Monetary Union

6 Ken Clarke is past his sell-by date. The bluff, blockish manner, the fags and the beer may go down well in the public bar, but women are not attracted by shirts popping open over a beer gut?

Teresa Gorman, May 18, 1997, former Redwood supporter now backing Clarke

6 It would not be a high price to pay to lose Kenneth Clarke if it meant the party could rally round a policy opposed to monetary union. Ken Clarke is in a minority in the Cabinet, the Tory party and in the country?

Sir Richard Body, December 6, 1996, now a Clarke supporter

6 I don't think the Conservative Party could win an election in one thousand years on [John Redwood's] ultra right-wing platform?

Clarke, June 27, 1995, referring to Redwood's decision to challenge John Major for the Tory leadership

Deal that wooed Redwood into an unlikely marriage

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

ENEMIES called it the "marriage made in Hell" and the "instability pact". Friends dubbed it an "act of political genius" and the "dream team".

The alliance between Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood that shook Westminster was sealed within hours of the second-round ballot on Tuesday night.

Mr Redwood had watched on television at the headquarters of the Conservative 2000 think-tank as the result, which meant his elimination, came through. The telephone rang. It was Mr Clarke. They agreed to meet.

Mr Clarke offered a neutral house in Vincent Square, the imposing four-storey building owned by the former minister, Sir Tim Sainsbury.

The wheels were turning fast. Mr Clarke had beaten Mr Hague to the punch. But Mr Redwood was in any case leaning towards a deal with Mr Clarke — on the right terms. It had been noted throughout the contest that both men had conducted a polite struggle — reserving their most venomous barbs for William Hague.

Mr Clarke laid the ground for the agreement that turned the contest upside-down and convulsed the Right when he appeared on the BBC Today programme on the morning after the first ballot last week. He had won the opening round but his 49-vote tally was tantalisingly short of the figure that was needed to give him winning momentum. Those around the former Chancellor were privately

dispirited. Confident that he would get through the second round, they found it hard to see how he could go all the way without a substantial proportion of the votes of Mr Redwood, who was rightly expected to come a good third. From that morning interview onwards, Mr Clarke laid heavier-than-ever emphasis on an "inclusive" leadership.



Vincent Square: where Clarke deal was done

bringing all the main rightwingers, including Mr Redwood, into his Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Redwood and Mr Clarke had spent nearly all the election preaching the message that they were the unity candidates. Then Mr Hague appeared to play into their hands by emphasising that he would require all ministers to

abide by his line on the single currency.

Mr Hague, the former Welsh Secretary, was felt, even by his own supporters, to have performed poorly at the "hustings" of leadership contenders on Monday night.

The Clarkeites and Redwoodites were determined to make life difficult for him. And it was Sir Norman Fowler, the former Tory chairman, who floored Mr Hague with a question about whether Mr Clarke would be able to serve in his Shadow Cabinet if he maintained his desire to leave the options open on a single currency. Mr Hague, who has not pronounced against the principle of a single currency, but said that it should be ruled out for ten years, suggested that he would would wait everyone to sign up to his line.

From that moment on, the supporters of both Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood, who is against the single currency in principle, were claiming that Mr Hague had made it impossible for either of them to serve under him.

On Monday night key figures in the Clarke and Redwood camps began informal conversations about the possibility of an accommodation. Mr Clarke's team was pleasantly surprised by the degree of interest. Squaring the circle on Europe was their key concern, and Mr Clarke's offer early in the campaign of a free vote on single currency matters was revived.

Mr Clarke's secret meeting with Mr Redwood had been provisionally planned for days. The "safe house" was organised by Shaun Woodward, Conservative MP for Witney and former Tory press chief. He is on the Clarke team. Sir Tim is his father-in-law.

As Mr Redwood rang round his constituency officers, another call came through. It was Alan Duncan, one of Mr Hague's campaign leaders.

"Can we speak?" asked Mr Duncan. Mr Hague was on the line within minutes and said: "I am not assuming that you are going to vote for me, but can we meet?"

The Hague camp had not gone to the lengths of finding a neutral venue. So the Redwood team obliged. According to the Redwood team, Mr



Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood after the declaration of their pact. Both men had aimed their fiercest fire during the campaign at William Hague

Clarke was altogether keener and better prepared. Barry Legg, the rightwing former MP for Milton Keynes who lost his seat at the election, had offered the use of his home at Chapel Street, close to the House of Commons, for any horse-trading.

At 6.20pm Mr Redwood, accompanied by Hywel Williams, his chief aide, met Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine.

Within 30 minutes it was clear the earlier discreet talks had laid the groundwork for an agreement. Mr Redwood had to be satisfied that he would never be prevented from voicing his opposition in principle to the single currency. Mr Clarke was happy to go

along with a pledge that all Conservative MPs, including members of the Shadow Cabinet, would have a free vote on the issue.

The possibility of Mr Redwood becoming Shadow Chancellor — already mooted by the camps of both men — was raised.

Mr Williams went back to the Foundation 2000 headquarters to complete work on the statement which would be released only if Mr Redwood's team agreed. It underlined the suspicion in the Hague team that the deal had been done effectively with Mr Clarke before Mr Redwood sat down to talk with his man.

For his meeting, Mr Hague was accompanied by Mr Dun-

can. Mr Redwood and Mr Hague sat alone. The omens were not good. Mr Redwood began by asking: "What is your latest position on a single currency?" The meeting lasted for 25 minutes and broke up with no promises or offers.

Mr Redwood went back to the Foundation where about 16 of his most loyal supporters were waiting. Only one person raised any objections to a deal with Mr Clarke, but it was decided their main should go for the post of Shadow Chancellor.

At 10pm Mr Clarke telephoned again. The deal was virtually closed and at 8am yesterday the agreement was finalised. Mr Clarke had telephoned Mr Redwood and

confirmed that he could be Shadow Chancellor. At midday Mr Redwood and Mr Clarke appeared in Church House together for their unlikely political wedding.

Within minutes Mr Redwood knew what a gamble he had taken in risking a serious split on the Right. He was told that Baroness Thatcher had come out for Mr Hague. He joked that she had not backed him when he was on his own; so he hardly had a right to expect her support now that he had joined Mr Clarke.

The laughs from the Redwood and Clarke supporters were loud. Today they will know whether it was a marriage made in Hell or Heaven.

The Tories' Ark sails in to keep chosen heir afloat

Continued from page 1

restaurant, a journalist asked him why she had been won so late to his charms. Hague looked indignant. "Lady Thatcher has known me for twenty years," he complained. "Her statement today is a warm endorsement of me." Norman Lamont peeped, badger-like, from the foliage of a false fig tree.

Another tormentor quoted Teresa Gorman: "Nice boy but not a big hitter."

"I am a big hitter," protested young William, his voice, mercifully, not breaking on the "am". "Ken is a big hitter. I'm a big hitter, too."

"I have the broadest base!" he declared. We called to mind Kenneth Clarke's base and wondered.

These occasions are undignified, but Hague handled his with poise and humour. He mocked the unusual marriage

of Kenneth Clarke and John Redwood, without personal spite.

He had arrived to a shaky start, hovering at the door with Michael Howard, then thinking better of it and making his entrance later. Just like old times.

The Atrium was packed. At the door lounged a muscular hunk in shorts — neither a bouncer nor a skeleton in any of the campaign teams' closets, but a fascinated member of the nearby gym.

Around the door waited a cluster of young Haguesters. This is a new politico-social grouping, a sub-Blairite phenomenon of which we may be seeing more.

They are under 25, exceptionally fresh and clean, with bright eyes and soft, manageable hair. They might seek employment as models for deodorant or hair-condition-

ing products. They do not (as the young Thatcherites did) look mad; but vulnerable. They blush easily.

Mr Hague's lectern read "The Natural Coalition" while his backdrop was adorned with posters saying "Fresh Start". An impression grew that we were attending the launch of a facial scrub. Archie Norman MP, the young white-kid who rescued Asda, stood on in shirt-sleeves and declared "Hague! The man who can and will." The Haguesters whooped.

Can and will what? Echoing through the Atrium came the Haguesters' musical choice: the haunting theme tune from 1492 — Conquest of Paradise. The music was stirring.

But Christopher Columbus never got to where he meant to go. He got somewhere, but it didn't turn out to be what he thought, at all.

Hague's blunders and improbable alliance leave party bruised, divided and incredible

THE Tory party has now conceded that it is no longer a potential alternative government — and is unlikely to be for some time. Kenneth Clarke's bizarre alliance with John Redwood and William Hague's tactical blunders have left the party bruised, divided and incredible, whatever happens today.

If Mr Hague does win it is hard to see how either Mr Clarke or Mr Redwood could serve in his Shadow Cabinet in the short-term, leaving a much weakened front bench and a split party.

In some ways, the Clarke-Redwood axis may be the least worst option in that at least the best qualified Tory would become leader. But the price is the most improbable alliance at Westminster since the short-lived, and



Charles James Fox and Lord North: doomed pact

widely ridiculed, Fox-North coalition of 1783. That marriage of opposites was defended by Fox on the plea that quarrels should be short, friendships abiding. But he had deep differences of principles with North, whose character he had attacked and whom he had threatened with impeachment. Mr

Clarke has not quite done that, but no one had any trouble yesterday finding a list of critical comments about Mr Redwood by the former Chancellor.

Mr Clarke's agreement with Mr Redwood means that if British entry did become an active possibility and the Shadow Cabinet

could not agree, there would be a free vote. That is at least a more realistic way of coping with the deep divisions within the Tory party than Mr Hague's attempt to enforce collective responsibility.

But the deal is deeply flawed and is just the type of fudge which Mr Clarke fought against before the election. An agreement to differ over a single currency would be torn apart during an election campaign. Even in the short term, I doubt whether an alliance built primarily on opposition to Mr Hague is sustainable.

The Clarke-Redwood statement referred to "our complete agreement on other European questions". Really? The Tory manoeuvrings overshadowed Tony Blair's statement on the Amsterdam

summit. The Prime Minister was able to claim success in safeguarding British interests on border controls, foreign and defence policy, and in preventing the extension of the EU's "legal personality".

In some areas we will need to see the small print of the agreements. But John Major, in his farewell performance as Leader of the Opposition, mainly argued that the successes claimed by Mr Blair were inherited from the Tories or on issues never seriously at risk. That would probably also be Mr Clarke's line, argued with brio, but before the Amsterdam summit Mr Redwood was claiming that the future of Britain was at stake. The instincts of Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood are very different.

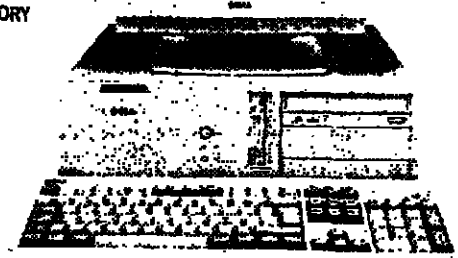
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Leading restorer daubed genuine artefacts with garish paint to make them look like tourist trinkets

Smuggler of Egyptian antiquities sent to jail

REPORTS BY
STEPHEN FARRELL

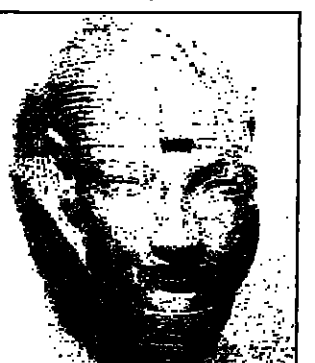
AN ANTIQUITIES restorer who smuggled Egyptian antiquities by camouflaging them as cheap tourist trinkets was jailed yesterday for six years. The verdict at Knightsbridge Crown Court in London ended a series of legal actions in two countries.

Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, 46, was found guilty on two counts of handling artefacts looted from Saqqara, the necropolis of the Pharaohs' ancient city of Memphis.

In February a Cairo court sentenced the Cambridge philosophy graduate in his absence to 15 years' hard labour for being part of a 12-man smuggling ring that included corrupt Egyptian antiquities inspectors.

Days later he took hemlock in a hospital psychiatric unit near his home in Winkleigh, Devon, forcing the abandonment of his first British trial.

After a five-week retrial a jury convicted him of handling two figure reliefs worth £90,000 from a false door in the tomb of the long-dead hairdresser Hetepka, described during the case as the "Vidal Sassoon to the Pharaohs", and a bronze statue of the falcon-god Horus, from 600BC. He was also convicted of making false statements to obtain a passport. The Horus was never recovered. Tokeley-Parry was cleared on a third charge



□ Tokeley-Parry's deviousness was revealed by the alterations he carried out to a head of Amenhotep III. The jury was shown photographs of its original, badly damaged state (above left). It then saw how the damage was partially restored and the exterior painted to resemble a tacky bazaar souvenir (above right). Once back in Britain, to create a false provenance, Tokeley-Parry sprayed the head gold and claimed it was a piece restored in the 1920s. The court was told that he had arranged to sell it to a New York dealer for £350,000.

of handling pieces of a false door from the complex of King Pepi, from 2184BC.

Judge Pontius told him he had tried "to pull the wool over the eyes of this jury with a farrago of complete and utter nonsense masquerading as a defence". He was a man of undoubted intelligence and skill as a restorer but he had "prostituted that talent for wholly selfish reasons".

The conviction marks the end of Operation Bullrush, the largest investigation into antiquities smuggling by Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Unit. Two other Britons, the

smuggling ring's courier, Mark Perry, 34, and Andrew May, a farmer from Barnstaple, Devon, were also sentenced to hard labour in Cairo in their absence but were never charged in Britain. Neither they nor Tokeley-Parry can be extradited but all face immediate arrest if they return to Egypt.

Tokeley-Parry was the only defendant to stand trial in Britain after police raids at dealerships in Devon, Shropshire and Gloucestershire in 1995. Other charges, over the looting of Egyptian and Chinese antiquities, were dropped

after jurisdiction difficulties. The case was monitored by President Mubarak of Egypt, reflecting Cairo's desire to end the illegal trade.

Paul Dodgson, for the prosecution, had told the court that the artefacts were supplied between September 1992 and December 1993 by Ali Ibrahim Farag, the owner of a Cairo import and export company who was one of nine local people sentenced to hard labour by the Egyptian court.

Tokeley-Parry and other craftsmen created near-identical copies in back-street Cairo workshops by using silicon moulds accurate enough to record a fingerprint. The fakes were sneaked back into warehouses so that the originals were not missed. Meanwhile the genuine artefacts were covered in plastic liquid and daubed with garish paint. Some were stamped "Egypt" to avoid suspicion from customs officials.

In Britain Tokeley-Parry stripped the paint and sold the objects for a huge profit. One item, a head of Amenhotep III intended for the New York dealer Fred Schultz, was valued at £850,000.

The trade was exposed in May 1994 when papyruses were sent to Dr Jeffrey Spencer, assistant keeper in the Egyptian antiquities department at the British Museum, to confirm their authenticity. One expert realised they were stolen and alerted police.



Jonathan Tokeley-Parry at work on an Egyptian antiquity at his home in Devon

Change in law urged to combat £100m trade

THE Egyptian Government and archaeologists called yesterday for changes in the law to curb the £100 million international trade in looted antiquities.

Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, Disney Professor of Archaeology and Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, said that the illegal trade often existed alongside traffic in drugs and weapons. It was endemic in countries such as Egypt, Greece and Italy, which have total bans on the export of heritage items.

Dr Ali Hassan, President of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Cairo, urged Britain last night to ratify the Unesco convention which would speed the return of artefacts to their countries of origin.

Lord Renfrew said that, although British museums had long held controversial objects, archaeologists now recognised the conservation issues involved. "Very few of those museums would now purchase material without provenance in the way that they would have done even 30 years ago. New laws and conventions are required."

Detective Sergeant Richard Ellis, who led the investigation of Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, said: "This case throws up the inadequacy of our laws. It is a loophole that you can bring things into this country knowing them to be stolen, and dispose of them perfectly legally."

Student of morality saw crime as a great game

FITTINGLY for a master faker, nothing is what it seems with Jonathan Tokeley-Parry. His friends describe the dapper, permanently tanned philosophy graduate as a brilliant but unstable fantasist who constantly reinvented his background and believed himself to be above the law.

When police raided his home in Devon in 1995 they found a half-finished novel about the Egyptian antiquities market, mirroring many of his own exploits in Cairo. Separating fiction and fact proved difficult outside, as well as inside, the courtroom.

Friends drawn into costly plans to build an amphibious, microlight aircraft — intended, he hinted, for sale to the SAS — later learnt that he was not a former cavalry officer, as he often claimed, but an ex-

Territorial Army member of the Devon and Dorsetshire Regiment.

Detectives believe he made hundreds of thousands of pounds from looting, but saw the operation as a "great game" in which he posed as a friend of Egypt, by designing air-conditioning systems to protect antiquities, while encouraging their plunder.

Born Jonathan Aidan Felix Foreman, he changed his name while reading Moral Sciences at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, in the 1970s, taking his mother's maiden name, Tokeley, and adding Parry for effect. He began restoration work to fund postgraduate studies and became known in the close-knit antiquities trade as a gifted conservationist with expertise in sand-glazed Egyptian pottery. The prose-

cution claimed he soon realised he could make more money smuggling artefacts than conserving those already in the hands of collectors, and began his illegal activities in 1988.

Mark Perry, his courier, told the court how Tokeley-Parry recruited him during a hair-raising drive through the Devon countryside in a sports car and later referred to him as "my butler". Tokeley-Parry carried a leather-bound volume of *War and Peace* in court and was often accompanied by two half-comic, half-sinister "defence advisers". One was later barred after an alleged altercation with a witness and the pair threatened a series of increasingly bizarre stunts to protest his innocence, including a helicopter drop of 100,000 leaflets over London.

Murdered girl, 16, 'copied vice trade from TV series'

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A BRIGHT and happy schoolgirl turned to prostitution after seeing the vice-girl drama *Band of Gold* on television, a court was told yesterday. Within months, Lucy Burchell, 16, was dead after two drug dealers allegedly fed her a massive dose of heroin and watched her die.

Birmingham Crown Court was told that she began working the streets of Walsall in the evenings while sitting GCSE examinations during the day. Each night she took a change of clothes to a children's home where a 15-year-old friend was living, and the two then went to a red-light area. She had a pimp, worked from a pitch outside a public house, and in between clients she would telephone a schoolfriend.

Last August, she was allegedly picked up and taken to the home of Tahir Khan, 27, in Salfrey. He and Rungzabe Khan, 25, from Hodge Hill, Birmingham, deny murder and drug charges.

John Mitling, QC, for the prosecution, said Lucy was not an addict, but the two men would have known the effects of a fatal dose. The purity of the heroin was 80 per cent, while the usual strength used by addicts was 60 per cent.

The men allegedly sat and watched as she died lying on a bed. Mr Mitling said they may have wanted to get her hooked, or "to test the effects of administering that purity of heroin on her". They dumped her body on wasteland next day, he said.

A 16-year-old schoolfriend of the dead girl told the court that, when Lucy first told her she was involved in vice, she thought it was a joke.

The girl said: "She told me she had thought about trying to do it after watching *Band of*

Gold. She used to watch that a lot and thought it would be a good idea."

She said that Lucy had begun keeping bad company and taking cannabis and sniffing lighter fuel. Lucy had also written a "life plan" in which she said that she wanted "to smoke loads of drugs, more and more drugs as time went by" and thought that she would become a crack-cocaine addict.

Lucy's mother, Christine, a nursery nurse, told the court in a statement that she had noticed changes in her only daughter in the months before she died. "Lucy had got into the habit of staying out very late and the last couple of weeks had been worse. I thought she lied to us about where she had been."

Pamela Marsh, Lucy's year tutor at the Great Wyrley High School, said she was a happy, smiling and popular girl. Of all the pupils in her class, she had never expected Lucy to become involved in prostitution, she said. She achieved high grades in her examinations, but died before the results were released. The trial continues.



Lucy Burchell: she was killed by heroin

Burglar complains of stolen moment

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

A BURGLAR who was filmed stealing by one of his victims walked free yesterday, threatening legal action against the man who filmed him.

Stephen Johnstone, 38, was given a suspended six-month sentence at Sittingbourne, Kent, and ordered to pay £50 compensation to his victims and £100 to Christopher Taylor, the retired banker who caught him on video.

Johnstone, from east London, was indignant that the incriminating video might now be sold to a film company and is threatening legal action "to see if he can sell my image without my permission".

Mr Taylor, who has been burgled eight times in the past 15 years, had watched in astonishment as Johnstone calmly walked up to his farmhouse in Faversham last October and stole a £410 chainsaw, hedge trimmer and garden furniture. When the thief headed back to his house to load up with more property, Mr Taylor grabbed his video camera.

The court was told that Johnstone carried out four other burglaries in the same area last August. When he saw the amateur video footage of himself on television, he gave himself up. Johnstone said: "People should make their homes more secure. Mr Taylor has been made to sound like a bit of a hero in all this. But if I been of a different persuasion he could have ended up being seriously hurt for doing what he did. He should simply have called the police."

Mr Taylor was not in court to hear the sentence, but dismissed it as abhorrent and disgraceful. He said: "This is more of an encouragement to other would-be burglars."

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ATOL 4384

Ecstasy research shatters illusion of 'risk-free' drug

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DOSE of Ecstasy at the weekend results in a hangover so severe that it lasts until the middle of the week, researchers have found. Users are irritable, restless and so depressed they could qualify for clinical treatment.

The effects of the drug are far worse than those of alcohol, according to the study by Valerie Curran of University College London. Her results are backed up by research by the University of Wales in Swansea and the University of East London, which has shown that Ecstasy impairs memory.

In one test, Ecstasy users remembered nearly a third fewer words than non-users. The studies counter the notion among users that Ecstasy is a risk-free drug without damaging side-effects. "When Ecstasy first became a popular drug, there were a few deaths," Dr Curran says. "Much was made of this by the press and by anti-drug campaigners. But in fact deaths are very rare, so Ecstasy users soon stopped listening to the warnings. They drew the conclusion that since

the warnings about dying were exaggerated, Ecstasy must be harmless."

The number of regular users of Ecstasy is not known but estimates of up to 500,000 have been made. "Some people say double that," Dr Curran, a reader in psychopharmacology, says.

With the help of a disc-jockey, she recruited 12 Ecstasy users at a London club on a Saturday night and 12 people who said they had taken only alcohol. They all completed mood and memory tests at the club, and were tested again at home the next day and the following Wednesday.

One test involved counting backwards in sevens from a three-figure number, a standard method of studying working memory and the ability to concentrate. In the club and the following day, Ecstasy users did almost twice as badly as the drinkers. By Wednesday the scores were closer but the alcohol group still did better.

Bigger differences emerged when mood was tested. The day after clubbing, Dr Curran

says, the two groups achieved similar results. "The alcohol group, who had had the equivalent of five to six pints of beer, were simply hungover," she says. "The Ecstasy group hadn't slept, so they were tired. The results were about the same."

By the Wednesday, however, the drinkers had recovered but the Ecstasy users had not. Their scores for irritability and restlessness were 50 per cent higher and their anxiety rating was double that of the drinkers.

"What concerns me is that Ecstasy users could have effects long term," Dr Curran says. "So far we have no results on that but from the way the drug acts on the brain and from animal experiments, it looks as if heavy users could well suffer long-term psychological effects."

Two other studies have shown that Ecstasy can affect the memory. In one, led by Andrew Parrott of the University of East London, users were asked to look at a computer screen as 15 words appeared on it one after the

other. Afterwards they were asked to write the words they remembered. Several days after taking Ecstasy, regular users recalled 30 per cent fewer words than non-users. "This is obviously worrying, given the widespread use of the drug among the young," Dr Parrott told *New Scientist*.

Michael Morgan and colleagues at the University of Wales in Swansea compared two groups matched for age and for the consumption of most drugs but only one of which took Ecstasy. In most tests the two groups were comparable, showing that there was no difference in intelligence between the users and the non-users. But on tests of memory, Ecstasy users performed markedly less well.

The difficulty with such studies is being certain that the effects are due to Ecstasy and not some other drug. Many users may also take cannabis or amphetamines.

Dr Curran says that the effects she has discovered are mild but they could cause problems for students taking examinations.



Calling for more liberal attitudes: from left, Miriam Stoppard, Claire Rayner and Virginia Ironside

Agony aunts clash over cannabis

By PETER FOSTER

AGONY aunts clashed yesterday over a call by Miriam Stoppard, the parenting guru, to relax attitudes towards marijuana.

In her new book *Questions Children Ask*, to be published tomorrow, she advises parents to tell children that marijuana "doesn't do you much harm unless you smoke it regularly" but does warn that the drug is illegal and can cause memory loss.

Melissa Roske, problem-page writer of *Just 17* magazine for teenagers, said: "As an American who has always had the anti-drugs message drummed into her, I am quite

shocked by this. We wouldn't give advice like this. The jury is still very much out on the effects of cannabis abuse."

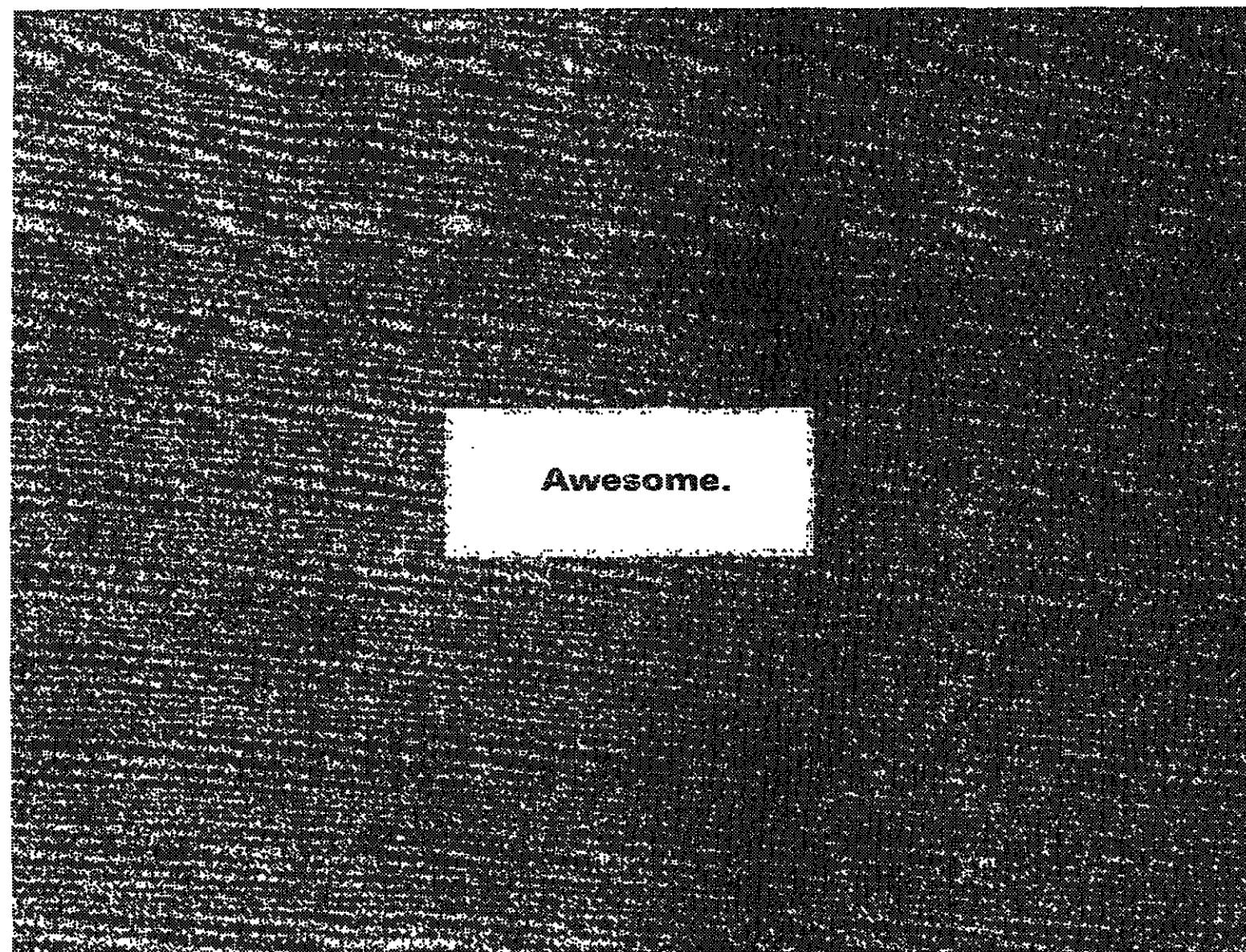
However Claire Rayner, broadcaster and author of more than 100 books, said she totally agreed with Ms Stoppard and found it ludicrous that tobacco, which kills many thousands each year, was legal while marijuana was not. "Unlike tobacco, marijuana has several valuable medical uses controlling muscle spasms in sufferers of multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. It should be legalised immediately for medical and religious uses."

Zelda West-Meads, a counsellor of 20 years' experience, and agony aunt at *YOU* magazine, said she was anti-legalisation but agreed with Ms Stoppard's tactic of frankness. "You have to be honest with children and tell them about the risks but it doesn't work to make everything scary," she said. "If you tell a child of eight all drugs are terrible, he will just want to know why adults take them."

Virginia Ironside, the rock-columnist-turned-agony-aunt writing for *The Independent*, admits sampling cocaine and even once smoking heroin. She said that a hard-line parental stance over drugs was counter-productive. "When children find out they don't drop dead but have a

great time when they take an Ecstasy tablet, they will ignore all parental advice, including the important bits," she said. She would not encourage children to experiment. "Marijuana remains illegal. If youngsters get caught and have a caution on their record, it can cause problems finding jobs."

George Howarth, the Home Office Minister, was at a drugs conference in London yesterday. He said: "I don't think it is helpful for prominent figures to make this sort of statement. There are all sorts of problems with cannabis abuse, although I admit these are associated with heavy use."



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Jails catch 1,300 trying to smuggle narcotics

By RICHARD FORD

JAIL staff caught 1,300 people attempting to smuggle drugs to prisoners last year as part of a drive to curb drug use among inmates. A further 250 people have been arrested since April.

Bins into which people can dump drugs have been placed outside some jails and prison staff have noticed a rise in the number of visitors who, on seeing searches conducted, turn back and place packages in their vehicles.

Pam Wilson, head of order and control in the Prison Service, disclosed the arrests at a meeting of the London Drug Policy Forum. She said there was greater use of informants in the 135 jails in England and Wales to detect drugs and potential smugglers.

Seventy jails now had sniffer dogs that often worked the area where prisoners received visitors. Also, tables in visit areas had been lowered to make it less easy to pass drugs and the number of searches had been increased.

Random drug testing found that 35 per cent of those tested in Pentonville jail, London, were positive and 20 per cent of those tested in Holloway were positive.

Boy in drug alert may have taken new strain

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A NEW and powerful form of Ecstasy is thought to have caused the collapse of a 13-year-old boy who swallowed three tablets while playing with friends near his home.

Andrew Woodcock, from New Stevenston, North Lanarkshire, was still critically ill on a life-support machine last night. He arrived unconscious at Monklands District Hospital on Saturday night after his mother found him staggering around a park.

Strathclyde Police issued a warning about the new strain of Ecstasy after seizing a number of cream, diamond-shaped pills, scored down the centre, near the area where Andrew lives. Two teenagers have appeared at Hamilton Sheriff Court on charges relating to misuse of drugs. They made no plea and were released on bail.

CORRECTION

Anthony Steen, Conservative MP for Totnes, was not undeclared in the Conservative leadership contest (reports June 11 and June 18). He has supported Kenneth Clarke throughout.

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Tryon 'driven to divorce by wife's odd behaviour'

By RICHARD DUCE

LORD TRYON said yesterday that increasingly "odd behaviour" by his wife, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, had driven him seriously to consider a divorce.

Lady Tryon, 49, recovered in hospital after an apparent nervous breakdown, she said: "The whole thing is a complete tragedy. I have had a breakdown, or something like that. The divorce decision has been taken after months of odd behaviour."

The Australian-born Lady Tryon, known as "Kanga", was detained by police outside her manor house home in Great Durnford, Wiltshire, after she made spurious allegations that someone was trying to kill her.

Lady Tryon, who is wheelchair-bound, was voluntarily admitted from Salisbury police station to the special unit at a nearby hospital, where she has been treated over the past year after being disabled in a fall.

Lord Tryon, 57, a merchant banker, agreed to a single interview with a local reporter



Lady Tryon before her struggle with cancer

yesterday and confirmed his wife's earlier claim on Tuesday that he had asked for a divorce last weekend after 24 years of marriage.

He said that his wife, a mother of four, had "flipped" and had done so before. "I do not understand the workings of the human mind," he said. "She has said in the past I am going to murder her. I would not say definitely there is going to be a divorce but it is very likely, for the sake of the children as much as anything."

He refused to comment on

claims by Lady Tryon that he wanted her to leave the family home and said that he had "no idea" if she would return after hospital treatment. He later refused to elaborate on the interview.

It emerged yesterday that for several days Lady Tryon had telephoned police in Amesbury, Wiltshire, to make allegations concerning staff and the theft of jewellery.

On Tuesday morning, she told a reporter that Lord Tryon had asked for a divorce, which she was "furious" about. She then went for lunch at the local public house with her friend Sarah Miles, the actress.

At 2.20pm a woman telephoned police to say that Lady Tryon was in a distressed state and claiming her life was in danger. Police arrived, decided after speaking to Lady Tryon that her claims were "spurious in the extreme," and detained her under the Mental Health Act. At one stage Lady Tryon claimed to be telephoning the Queen.

After a struggle and heated exchanges involving police, the couple's grown-up children, friends and staff, she was

placed in her wheelchair in her adapted van. At Salisbury police station, consultations took place between Lady Tryon's doctor, a social worker and an independent psychiatrist. Police, who had considered sectioning Lady Tryon under the Mental Health Act agreed that she should be released into voluntary medical care at Salisbury District Hospital, where last night she was said to be in a satisfactory condition.

A friend of the family in the village, who refused to be named, said: "It is very sad and it is all about the fact that she has been desperately ill and fought for so long against ill health." She said of Lady Tryon, who has fought against cancer for three years: "Sometimes people just cannot take any more and they just despair."

Lord Tryon was "a decent and very nice person and it is unfair that he is being made out to be the cause of her anguish. He has visited her constantly in hospital. I am sure that he would never have wished this to happen."

Decline and fall, page 21



Lord Tryon described the family's situation yesterday as "a complete tragedy"

Mountain guide's 'thorny decision'

By ADRIAN LEE

A MOUNTAIN guide who fell and dragged his client to his death was forced to conduct a "mental balancing act" while thousands of feet up in the French Alps and, with hindsight, a mistake was made, the High Court was told yesterday.

The guide, David Cuthbertson, was facing the prospect of a "terrifying" rockfall when he cut back on safety in order to escape, the court was told. Referring to the imminent rockfall, his counsel, Jonathan Barnes, said: "It is a bit like snipers' alley, isn't it? Every minute seems a lifetime."

Mr Cuthbertson, 49, of Inverness, denies he was negligent when Gerry Hedley, 41, an art restorer, was killed on Tour Ronde seven years ago. To save time, Mr Cuthbertson had anchored his companion with one ice-screw instead of the accepted two, which did not hold when the guide was thrown off the 12,000ft peak.

He is being sued by Mr Hedley's widow. The hearing continues.

Developer guilty over builder's death fall

From DEBORAH COLLICUTT, IN EILLENBURG

A BRITISH property developer has been convicted of negligent manslaughter after a west London bricklayer died in an horrific accident on one of his sites in Germany. It is the first time a developer has been prosecuted for the death of a foreign worker in Europe and could open the floodgates for other similar cases.

David Carter, who lives in Germany, was given a five-month suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £4,500 compensation to the widow of Leonard Stacey, who fell 28ft to his death from the roof of an apartment block on a site near Leipzig, in eastern Germany. Mr Stacey's widow, Denise, 37, fought a long campaign to bring her husband's employers to justice and acted as co-prosecutor in the two-day trial in Eilenburg.

Carter, originally from Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, Richard Unterhuber, the German developer, and Thomas Naumann, the site manager, were charged with negligent manslaughter and endangering the lives of building workers. Unterhuber was convicted only of negligent manslaughter, and ordered to pay a fine of £6,500.

Petra Wendland, the judge, told Carter: "Your behaviour was bordering on disgraceful. You were only concerned about the swift completion of the project and employing cheap labour."

Mr Stacey, 49, was one of about 60,000 British and Irish builders who flocked to eastern Germany at the height of the reconstruction boom in the early 90s. He was building a wall on the second-floor roof of one block without any scaffolding, security barriers or netting when he fell. He died instantly.

After publicly expressing his sympathy to Mrs Stacey, Carter said the accident had shocked him. "Over the past few years, it is as if I've had the head of Damocles hanging over my head," he said, using a proverb under German law to mean the last word before execution. "I do not understand this day why he was

Blair leaves NHS review wide open

Tony Blair left open the possibility of introducing prescription charges for some pensioners when the Government completes its review of health spending. He refused to rule out the move after being pressed by John Major, in his last Prime Minister's Questions as Tory leader.

Mr Blair said: "Once you start ruling out things, then people say, well you've ruled this in, you've ruled this out." He insisted that the review would be consistent with a manifesto commitment that access to healthcare should be based on need and not ability to pay.

Doctors divided, page 11

Firework death

A City trader was killed instantly in front of his two young sons when he lit the wrong fuse on a giant mortar-shell firework - a type since outlawed - and it exploded in his face. An inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death on Steven Timeke, 34, of Wilmington, Kent.

Baby deaths

Police are investigating the deaths of two baby brothers and their cousin over three years in Brighton, amid fears that they were killed by relatives. They are examining the theory that they were killed because the family wanted only girls, and that those girls have been sexually abused.

Runway protest

A legal attempt by protesters to block Manchester airport's second runway was dismissed yesterday. The protesters were seeking leave for a judicial review of the Government's approval for the scheme. The High Court ruled that they faced insuperable difficulties.

Drugs boom fear

Drug trafficking is booming in Britain with cheap heroin and plentiful supplies of cannabis, Ecstasy and LSD. Dick Kellaway, Customs chief investigation officer, said, Customs prevented drugs worth £15 billion reaching Britain in the past year.

Ecstasy research, page 4

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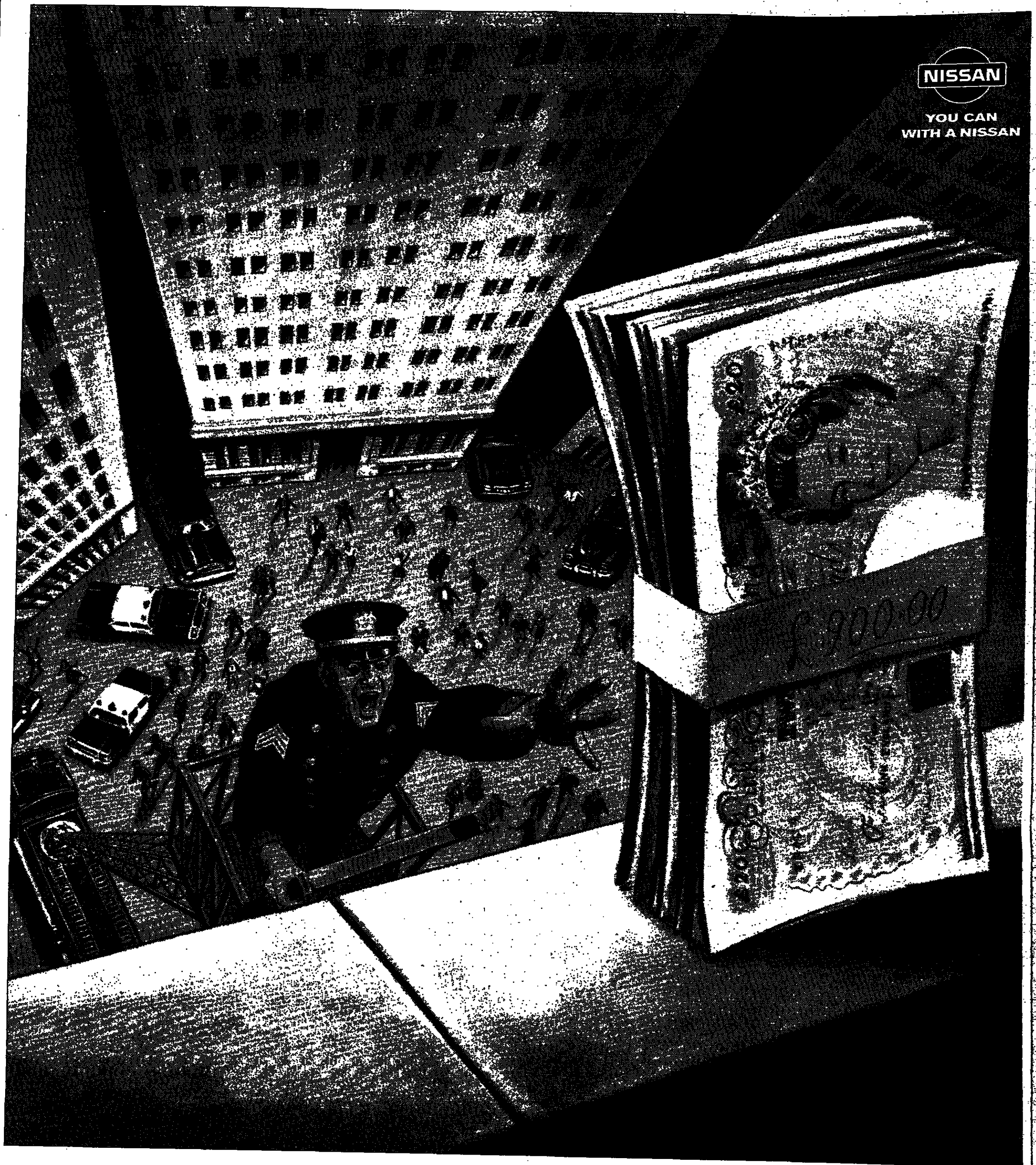
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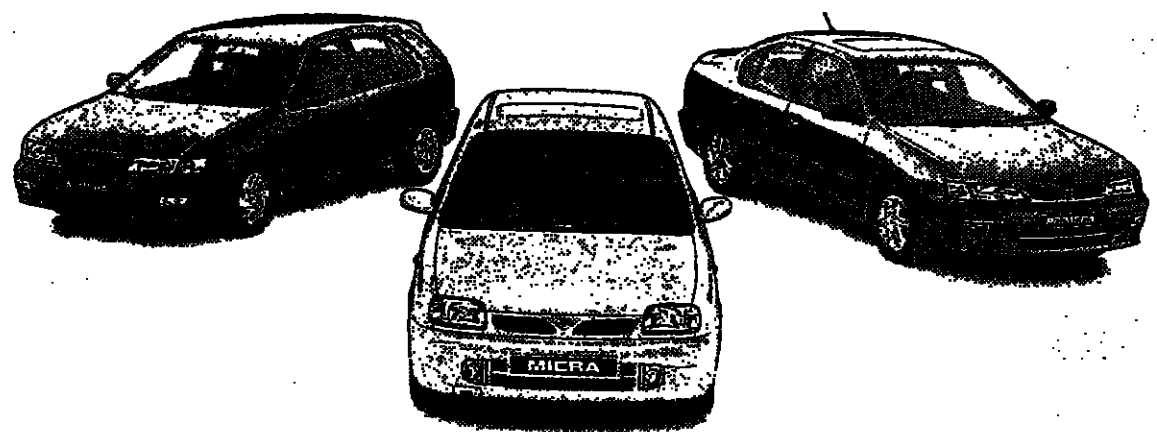
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السلامة

Sketch completes jigsaw of Seurat's huge masterpiece

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SCHOLARS have found the missing link in a jigsaw of drawings that helped Georges Seurat to create his masterpiece *Bathers at Asnières*.

Ten drawings were listed on a studio inventory drawn up after Seurat's death in 1891 but art scholars were certain of the whereabouts of only nine. The missing sketch, of a boy cupping his hands, was thought to be in a private collection in Paris but the owner refused to allow it to be studied.

Since his death the picture has been made available and the attribution has been confirmed by John Leighton, the National Gallery's former curator of 19th-century painting, now director of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. He said yesterday: "With an artist like Seurat, whose work is so well documented, you don't expect this sort of thing to happen. It's always a surprise



Seurat worked hard on the hands in the sketch

when a work turns up through the mists of time.

The ten images, spread among private and public collections around the world, will be reunited for the first time since Seurat's death in an

exhibition at the National Gallery, starting July 2. There will also be 14 oil sketches that relate to *Bathers*, which measures 300cm by 201cm (9ft 10ins by 6ft 6ins).

Robert Herbert, an American scholar at Yale, first tried to examine the missing sketch in the late 1980s but the owner refused. Two years ago, Richard Thomson, a specialist in 19th-century French art and professor at Edinburgh University, tried again. "The phone was slammed down," he said.

The owner has since died and the drawing, measuring 32cm by 24cm (about 1ft by 9½ins), was brought to the National Gallery a few months ago by a London dealer. Apart from it being "right stylistically", Mr Leighton said the attribution was supported by evidence found on the back: it has an inventory inscription in the handwriting of one of the people who drew up the list.

The newly attributed image shows the standing bather



Bathers at Asnières, painted when Seurat was 25, was kept hidden from scholars and the public for decades

down to his thighs. Mr Leighton, who has co-curated the National Gallery show with Professor Thomson, said: "If you glance at it, it's very close to the final work. But as you study it, you become aware of the subtle differences." He said that the artist had obviously had difficulty with the

way the boy cups his mouth as the painting shows extensive reworkings of that area.

Seurat, the founder of Neo-Impressionism, is associated with the technique called pointillism, in which a composition is painstakingly built up with minuscule dots of luminous colour. *Bathers* has become

one of the most famous images, and it would be almost impossible to value. Seurat sold little before his death from diphtheria at 31.

In 1884, *Bathers* was turned down by the Paris Salon but the municipal authorities allowed it to be shown with hundreds of other rejected

works in a temporary building. Professor Thomson said that it was hung in the bar or cafe, so even there it was "not treated with great respect".

"Only four or five critics commented on it. Some said it was interesting; some found it curious. But they recognised it as an ambitious painting."

Ministers seek global ban on self-chilling can

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A CAN that cools fizzy drinks at the press of a button is to be banned by Britain amid claims that the product will undermine international efforts to curb global warming.

The can, unveiled yesterday at an industry exhibition in Singapore, uses a refrigerant that is up to 3,400 times more powerful in its environmental effects than carbon dioxide, the power station and transport gas linked with rising world temperatures.

British ministers fear that millions of cans could be sold every year, leading to large volumes of global-warming gases being pumped into the atmosphere. They will be pressing for a tough line at a meeting of the European Union's environment council meeting in Luxembourg today. Michael Meacher, the Minister for the Environment, promised to ban manufacture of the product in Britain. A production line for the cans in the South East is rumoured to be under consideration.

"If we allow a gas which is so potent in producing global warming, we are completely undermining international efforts to overcome this cause of global warming with all its very adverse consequences for human society," Mr Meacher said yesterday. Britain will be

pressing developed nations for a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 at a United Nations special General Assembly next week.

The can is the brainchild of Mitchell Joseph, a California businessman whose family has been involved in soft drinks for three generations.

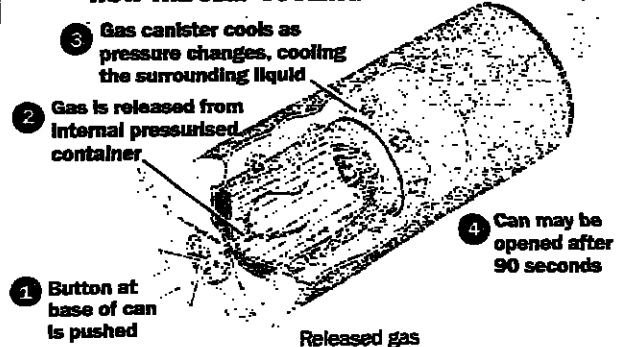
The can uses a product called HFC 134a developed by companies such as ICI and Dupont as an alternative to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are banned under the Montreal Protocol. The substitute chemical is used in refrigerators and air-conditioning but, unlike the can, these are closed systems.

At the heart of the self-chilling can is a cylinder inserted in the base and filled with liquid HFC and a valve. When the valve is pressed, the liquid turns to a gas and escapes, taking heat from its surrounding. In this case the fizzy drink, causing it to cool.

John Nutting, editor of *Canmaker*, said that alarm about the can was misplaced. The inventor was considering other refrigerants that had far less effect on global warming.

But yesterday ICI, makers of HFC 134a, distanced itself from the self-chilling can by saying that it would not supply chemicals for its production.

HOW THE SELF-COOLING CAN WORKS



Councils failing to meet 'green' targets

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT

TOWN halls are paying lip service to environmental progress while failing to meet government targets on waste recycling, traffic planning and energy conservation, an Audit Commission report says.

Even where councils are making an effort, measures are often counterproductive. Attempts to improve the efficiency of rubbish collection through the introduction of wheeled bins has led to a 25 per

cent increase in waste because people appear to be tempted by their huge capacity.

It seems unlikely that many councils will reach the target of recycling 25 per cent of household waste by the year 2000. The report suggests encouraging people to compost waste and giving councils power to charge directly for each bin or sack emptied.

Less than 20 per cent of bids for transport funding had been for public transport and cycling. Liberal Democrat councils were the most likely to have a good "green" record.

THE FUTURE OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN BRITAIN

There is now a new name in Britain's energy market that is set to revolutionise the market when the deregulation of electricity and gas is completed over the next 18 months.

That name is ENERGI.

ENERGI is part of United Utilities. Through its ownership of Norweb, United Utilities is already an established player and currently supplies electricity and gas to over 2 million homes and businesses in the UK.

It is also one of the UK's lowest cost energy providers with proven standards of service and reliability.

ENERGI will harness Norweb's talent and experience in the marketplace but it will be very different from any existing UK energy supplier.

ENERGI has taken the initiative and looked to the future.

And while its current supply and distribution network ensures it has a solid business foundation, it is the ENERGI customer proposition that will make it significantly different from the competition.

This proposition is based on a single premise - that customers will respond to an energy supplier that offers genuine choice.

ENERGI will be the champion of choice.

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It will never take its customers for granted and has already invested in advanced information technology that will set new standards in customer service.

ENERGI has seized the opportunity for change for the benefit of its business and its customers.

ENERGI is the new force in the marketplace. It is the first to combine innovation, resource and commitment to customers.

ENERGI will deliver more choice, more control and lower prices.

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Carey denounces withdrawal of free care for elderly

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A GENERATION is growing old with a strong sense of betrayal and injustice at the piecemeal dismantling of free care for the elderly, the Archbishop of Canterbury will say today.

Dr George Carey, 60, will issue a warning that the disappearance of cradle-to-grave National Health Service provision "has increased people's sense of instability in their lives".

"Constant anxiety is corrosive and fear for one's own future can make one less than generous to one's fellow citizens. It can also foster resentment between the generations, whereas we should be aiming at solidarity and fellow feeling," he will say.

In a passionate speech, to be delivered in London tonight to the Abbeyfield Society, a charity that provides residential



Carey: people's sense of instability increased

care for the elderly, Dr Carey will criticise the introduction of means-tested long-term care for elderly people which, he claims, contains a "marked element of arbitrariness and injustice".

"A small number of people face the trauma of losing virtually all their assets in order to pay for means-tested care, wiping out all their

savings, while others who never bothered to save anything are cared for without charge," he will say.

Although Dr Carey is careful in his address not to be politically partisan or to apportion blame, implicit in his speech is a denunciation of the 18 years of Conservative rule when most of the "reforms" he criticises were implemented.

His optimism that a way forward can be found, now that the new Labour Government has recognised the need for wholesale reform of the welfare state, will be seen by some as an endorsement of the radical plans of Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, who is a close friend.

Dr Andrew Purkis, the Archbishop's secretary for public affairs, said: "He is aware that we are now at a time where it's possible to go back to basics and conduct a thorough review of the situation. He feels that the Church has an important contribution to make to such a review."

Dr Carey's address is based on his growing concern for the thousands of unpaid "invisible" carers of elderly disabled relatives. The percentage of the population aged over 80 is predicted to rise from 3.7 per cent in 1991 to 4.5 per cent in 2021, an increase of about 600,000 people. Between 2011 and 2041, the number of over-85s is expected to double.

"We simply should not tolerate people having to live in fear of financial ruin in old age, or people fearing virtual abandonment by the rest of society if they undertake caring responsibilities for a close relative, or elderly people feeling that to remain alive in a residential home is an unwanted burden through which their children's inheritance will be destroyed," Dr Carey will say.

He is optimistic that prompt action could ensure that sufficient provision is made for the growing number of old people. Among the possible solutions Dr Carey suggests is a compulsory national care insurance scheme. Those with jobs would pay 1.5 per cent of earnings into an insurance fund to pay for the costs of care in their old age.

Big increase in over-60s forecast

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE over-60s will form more than a quarter of the world's population in a hundred years, experts forecast yesterday. They believe that ageing, rather than population growth, will be the future focus of public, political and scientific concern.

The forecast appears in *Nature* from a team led by Dr Wolfgang Lutz of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna. The team believes that today's 5.8 billion world population will increase to 7.6 billion in 2020 and 10 billion in 2050.

"A strong increase in the proportion of elderly people is virtually certain," it says, rising from the present 9.5 per cent to 20 per cent in 2050 and 27 per cent in 2100.

By then population growth in most of the world will have stopped or even begun to decline, but growth will continue in Africa, the team

concludes. The forecasts are based on expert opinion about trends in fertility, mortality and migration.

They not only set out the most probable outcomes but also how probable they are. The team concludes, for example, that there is a two-thirds probability that the world's population will not double during the next century.

One of the key elements in the analysis is the global trend towards low fertility, even in countries of traditionally high birth rate. At the other end of the equation, there was uncertainty about how much longer people will live. Some experts believe that the human race is already close to the biological limit of life expectancy.

Although the population of the world may not double before it stabilises, the numbers of over 60s will more than double and may even triple by 2100, according to the forecast.



Louie, seven, cries on the shoulder of Angie Johnston at the funeral yesterday

Policemen's children weep for their fathers

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG boy wept uncontrollably on his mother's shoulder yesterday as the children of two murdered RUC constables became the focus of public grief at their funerals.

Louie Johnston, 7, heard Dr Sam Hutchinson, the Presbyterian Moderator, condemn the shootings in a powerful sermon, saying: "A happy family has been devastated, not because of an unfortunate accident but because cynical godfathers and callous gunmen decided it should be so."

David Johnston, 30, and John Graham, 34, were killed on Monday at Lurgan, PC

Johnston's widow, Angie, clutched her sons Joshua, 3, and Louie as they followed the coffin out of the church at Lisburn, Co. Antrim. Louie wrote a note on a floral wreath to "the greatest dad in the world. We love you."

Two of PC Graham's three daughters, Rebecca, 10, and Abigail, 7, were supported by their mother, Rosemary, and their aunt at their father's Baptist funeral in Tandragee Co. Armagh. The youngest, Katie, 2, did not attend.

Pastor Edward Betts said the constable did not have a "shred of sectarian hatred in his heart". "There are evil

men in our midst who do the work of the Devil by murdering good men and ruining good families."

"I feel like leaving my pulpit and going to their den of iniquity to take them by the scruff of the neck to show them the young families."

The teenage children of a Maze Prison officer had to escape across the roof of their home in East Belfast after it was fire-bombed by Loyalist terrorists protesting against cell searches on a wing housing Ulster Volunteer Force inmates. The terrorists also threatened to murder a governor.

US call for Adams to disown the killers

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

ONE of Gerry Adams's most vocal supporters in the United States believes that Sinn Féin will have to condemn IRA murders if it wishes to maintain popular support.

Fundraising for Sinn Féin rose over the past six months, despite the resumption of violence, but Peter King, Republican congressman for New York, said: "Virtually everyone who supported Adams before continues to be convinced he's doing all he can. But this week's events are pushing a number of us very close to the line where we would think he should go public and condemn the IRA if he is not to lose all American support."

The Clinton Administration, which has condemned the killings in the strongest language yet used towards the republican movement, has so far held back from a decision to withdraw from the peace process. One senior official said: "This has been the most shocking and depressing week in my time on Ireland."

Friends of Sinn Féin, the republican fundraising organisation, raised \$216,000 (£125,000) in the past six months, a third more than in the previous half-year and more than 50 per cent more than in the same period a year ago. Chuck Feeney, a prominent businessman, is by far the single largest donor, according to financial returns filed at the Justice Department. Mr Feeney, a secretive New Jersey businessman who co-founded a chain of international duty-free shops, contributed £70,000.

Sinn Féin confirmed yesterday that John Kennedy Jr, son of the late President John F. Kennedy, attended the military-style funeral in Ireland last week of Patrick Kelly, a convicted IRA bomber.

Kelly's funeral was held on Saturday. According to the *New York Post*, Mr Kennedy was there to supervise a story for *George*, a glossy magazine he edits. Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, also attended. Kelly, who was jailed for 25 years in 1993, died of skin cancer.

Governors suspend school sale

Parents campaigning to save Britain's only Jewish boarding school won a key battle yesterday after governors suspended its sale to a developer. The board of Carmel College, near Wallingford in Oxfordshire, decided to review the reported £2.5 million deal after the Charity Commission launched an inquiry.

A group of parents concerned at the way the closure was suddenly announced in April called in the commission. They are fundraising to clear the school's debts and are formulating a plan that would have the support of the Jewish community.

Fund for teacher

A fund set up in memory of Owen Mayor, the primary school teacher who died in the Dunblane massacre, has reached £107,000. The fund is operated by the Educational Institute of Scotland, of which she was a member.

Widower's move

The widower of a woman killed when part of a North Yorkshire rail bridge fell on her car is to sue Railtrack. Inspectors reported the bridge in poor condition two years ago, an inquest was told. Verdict: accidental death.

Sainsbury's sued

Sainsbury's is being sued by Chanel over the use of the name Cristelle. The fashion house says that the supermarket group breached an injunction. It wants Sainsbury's to hand over all of its products carrying the name Cristelle.

Number's up

Police in Greater Manchester are to prosecute 500 drivers who were stopped during a two-week campaign against distorted number plates. The drivers face fines of up to £1,000 and having the plates confiscated.

Flyover plea

The RAF Red Arrows are to put on a display at a primary school fête after an invitation from a five-year-old pupil. Jack Davidson, who attends the Sir Thomas More school in Saffron Walden, Essex, has an uncle in the Red Arrows.

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Nationwide	6.50%	6.70%	6.75%	6.85%
Northern Rock	6.35%	6.40%	6.45%	6.50%
Bristol & West	6.40%	6.40%	6.40%	6.40%
Bradford & Bingley	5.90%	6.15%	6.15%	6.15%

NEWS IN BRIEF

Governors suspend school sale

Parents' anger, leading to a vote of no confidence in the governing body, has led to the suspension of a plan to sell the school.

Fund for teacher

A new fund has been set up to help teachers with financial difficulties.

Widower's move

A widower has moved to a new home after losing his wife.

Salmon's fate

The fate of the salmon has been decided by the court.

Police's plan

The police have a plan to deal with the situation.

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Broken promise would mean £24m wasted on preparations for Millennium Exhibition

Dome chiefs await final word from Blair

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

IT WILL cost Tony Blair £24 million and a broken promise to Bob Ayling, the chief executive of British Airways, if he cancels the Millennium Exhibition today.

The Prime Minister spent yesterday studying the most detailed proposals yet for the content of the £750 million show, including a virtual space walk, holograms of great inventions and a chance for children to play with toys of the future.

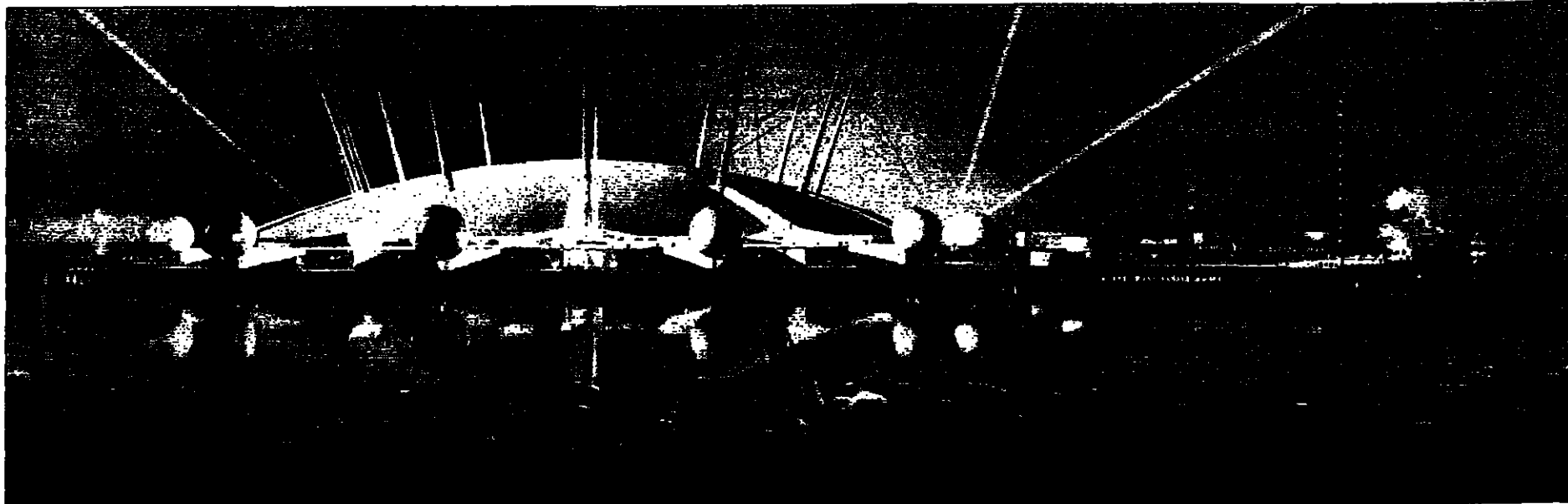
On January 17, Mr Blair assured Mr Ayling, chairman of Millennium Central, which is organising the exhibition, that he would not cancel the event if Labour won the general election. With the confidence of that assurance, the organisers began recruiting staff on five-year contracts, ordered £8 million of steel and £7 million of PVC for the dome. It will cost £24 million if the Cabinet pulls the plug today.

The tickets for the festival — the theme of which is "Time" — are likely to be working watches, with the visitor's entrance date and time on them. Millennium Central has been in discussions with Swatch about sponsorship.

Everybody who arrives will be taken to the hub of the dome, in groups of 10,000, where they will be shown a son et lumière display on "Time's Arrow". The half-hour programme will take visitors from the evolution of man through the development of civilisation, progressing to how the British are today and their future. The sound-and-light display will build up pace, emphasising the passage of time.

The climax is the present day: a silence symbolising time standing still. At that instant the hub will open and the visitors move into the three areas of the dome, representing The Human Body and Mind, What We Do (achievement and invention), and Where We Live (the planet and environment).

Each segment will have 20 pavilions containing educa-



An artist's impression of how the centre would look on the Greenwich skyline. Sources say its future depends on whether the exhibition passes Tony Blair's "Euan test"

tional material, interactive technology and playthings for children. The Human Body and Mind will include a virtual reality tour through a network of arteries and veins. There will be a pavilion on what science can do for the mind, looking at the future of education and whether machines can be used to teach people. A Frankenstein show will examine what can be done, and should not be done, to the human body.

Who English People Are will look at the evolution of Englishness. Accent and dialect in the British Isles will

describe how all the different ways of speaking came to be. In a taped version of the Domesday Book, every visitor will have three minutes to record their favourite experience of the past and their hope for the future.

There will be a display of 2,000 Years of Christian art, looking at how people prayed and believed in the past and predicting how they will do so in the next 1,000 years.

The What We Do human achievement zone is an invention, industry and design show. Visitors will be able to watch people in exciting and

creative professions working live on computer links to Greenwich. A biological scientist will perform innovative exercises on big screens and explain them as he goes along.

An artist will paint a picture. Frontiers of Play will allow children to experiment with new kinds of toys to see how they react.

The winners of the Millennium Design Awards, showing the finest of British industry, will be on display, as will holograms of leading foreign inventions.

The third section, Where We Live, includes a space

walk. In a dark space, people will walk on glass with a hologram of the Earth beneath, re-creating the view of an astronaut.

A huge database of NASA photographs of Britain will be used to build a computer map of the country. Visitors will be able to focus on their own town or village. Schools around the country will be invited to send details about their own neighbourhood, which will be built into the programme.

The Trouble With Travel will look at how roads, airports and sea lanes will cope

with the increasing demand for mobility. At what point is movement incompatible and what can be done about it?

Visitors can forecast ecological change using a computer that will show how forests and rivers are predicted to be affected by the next 1,000 years.

The various features will be continually updated. Outside the dome are a dozen giant golf balls which will include regional contributions. Between now and the exhibition, young people from all the countries and regions of the UK will produce dis-

plays to represent the past and future of their area. For example, one might be called Whither Tyneside?

The full contents of the exhibition have been studied by the Prime Minister after a series of frantic meetings between the organisers and Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio. Mr Blair has demanded an exhibition so exciting that his children will insist on being taken to see it. Labour sources say that the latest draft must pass the "Euan test".

The exhibition is on schedule to open on time. Most of this year so far has been spent creating the dome and the design work for the contents were to be the next detailed phase.

The organisers knew that Labour wanted to review the exhibition plans once in power but believed this was only to ensure that the show could be delivered to budget, not to cancel it. Only in the past fortnight have they considered that the entire event might be cancelled.

They believed that Gordon Brown and Labour's Treasury team were backing the proposal in January, and signed contracts on that basis.

D-day arrives with meeting of Cabinet team

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR and Chris Smith will meet this morning to take the critical decision over whether the Millennium Exhibition should go ahead. An announcement is expected to be made later today so that the issue can be settled before Mr Blair leaves for the G7 summit in Denver on Friday.

Mr Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, will present to Mr Blair what he thinks is a workable package based on an idea by Millennium

Central, the body that will run the exhibition. Sources close to Mr Smith say there have been revisions, in part from other members of the Millennium Commission and from national heritage advisers. They also say that Mr Blair will be given several options, ranging from a big event with a dome to a small event without one. Mr Blair and Mr Smith, who may be joined by Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will determine whether the scheme should go ahead and in what form.

Although the Prime Minister sup-

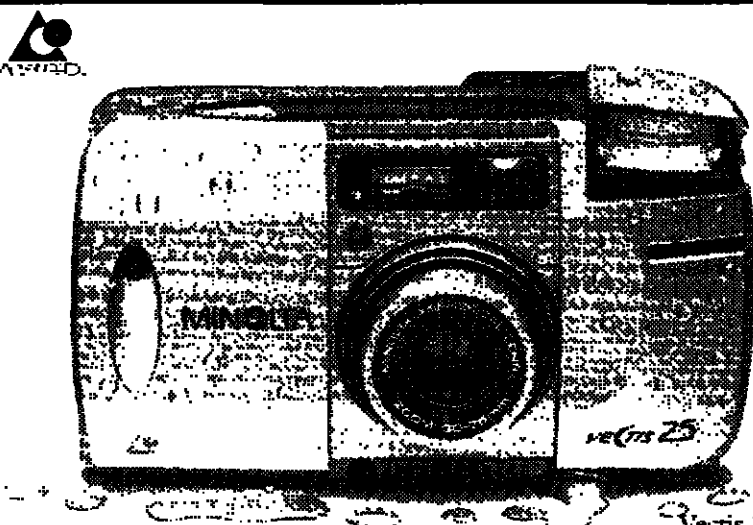
ports the idea of an exhibition that will attract worldwide attention, he is very worried about underwriting the costs of the scheme, which might fail to attract enough visitors. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has also made clear that he would not support any further government funding for the scheme.

Downing Street sources also point out that there is concern that the centre will be taken down within two years, which could be seen as a waste of money.

Mr Blair was said to be studying

papers on the scheme yesterday afternoon, having had little time to be briefed because of the Amsterdam summit.

Peter Mandelson, one of his closest allies, has had at least two lengthy meetings with Millennium Central this week, including one with Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways and chairman of Millennium Central on Monday night. "That meeting would not have taken place if the Government was on the point of dropping the scheme," one minister said.



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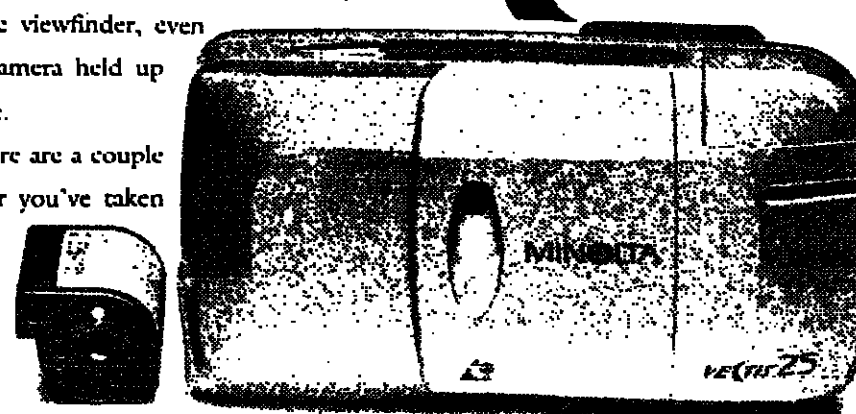
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Tales of incompetence by staff and management

Complaints about health service hit record level

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD number of complaints has been made about the National Health Service by patients fed up with delays, incompetence and bad management, the health ombudsman reported yesterday.

Michael Buckley, the Health Service Commissioner, said in his annual report for 1996-97, published yesterday, that 2,219 complaints were sent to him, a 24 per cent increase on the previous year. He upheld 69 per cent of the complaints investigated, the highest proportion since the health ombudsman's office opened in 1987.

Cases of bad management included a man with an acute stomach ache who had to wait eight hours in an emergency unit at Hillingdon Hospital, west London, before being admitted for surgery because he happened to fall ill on the day when junior doctors throughout the country changed jobs. Swapping jobs every six months is a normal part of junior doctors' training but, in this case, the senior surgical house officer had left for his new posting before his replacement arrived.

The ombudsman's report said that his workload had increased, despite a streamlined procedure for complaints introduced last year. A lay convener now sifts the complaints before passing the more difficult ones to the

ombudsman. Mr Buckley found failures in the way this practice was working and criticised four of the conveners for their actions in particular cases. "If such failures were repeated, they would call into question the integrity of the NHS complaints procedure and the independent role of the convener."

A total of 93 per cent of complaints about the complaints procedure were upheld. Mr Buckley said it was disgraceful that a woman at Pontefract General Infirmary had to wait from June 1992 until May 1995 before receiving an answer about concerns over her treatment.

Schizophrenia care 'is geographic lottery'

SCHIZOPHRENICS are treated differently according to where they live, a report published yesterday said. Costly drugs that could control the illness are not always made available and some psychiatrists fail to keep up to date with developments.

The claims were made by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, which has called for more equal care for the 35,000 people a year who are treated for the condition.

One per cent of the population suffers from schizophre-

nias: 16 per cent of the total health budget is spent on their treatment.

Early treatment can lead to a cure in a significant number of cases yet three quarters of people with schizophrenia stop taking medication within two years of discharge from hospital.

Bharat Mehta, chief executive of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, said: "I hope that a new Government whose declared aim is to provide equal treatment for all will respond positively to the need for action."

patient. The man eventually needed a second operation.

At Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, a child was called for an appointment for a food absorption test and was told not to eat or drink anything on the day. After the child had gone 17 hours without food or drink, the test was cancelled. The ombudsman traced the problem to a disagreement between the doctor who headed the test unit and the hospital trust. "I found it disgraceful that differences between the principal players caused the child's test to be cancelled at such a late stage," he says.

An elderly man taken to Hope Hospital in Salford with a suspected heart attack lost an eye after nurses failed to note his son's information that he had recently had an eye operation. When the man fell out of bed the next night, nobody made a special check on his eyes and, by the time the problem was discovered, it was too late. The report blamed poor communication.

At the Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli, a nurse telephoned a man to tell him his mother had died. The man contacted other relatives and a firm of undertakers. An hour later he was told by the hospital that the nurse had made a mistake.

Body and Mind, page 20

Schoolboy's invention casts off tradition

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SCHOOLBOY'S invention may eventually banish plaster of Paris from accident and emergency departments.

Adam James, 18, designed a wrist brace as an A-level project at Y Pant Comprehensive School in Pontyclun, South Wales. Now waiting to go to Loughborough University, he was at the Royal Society yesterday to demonstrate it as part of the New Frontiers in Science exhibition.

The brace is lighter, easier to apply and supports the wrist better without immobilising the hand. It can be reused and should be little more expensive than a plaster cast; the prototype cost £3.

Mr James developed it in consultation with an orthopaedic surgeon, Peter Evans of East Glamorgan Hospital. It consists of an outer plastic casing in two parts, with a double-walled plastic tube inside which can be inflated with silicone gel. As the inner tube expands it presses against the arm, holding it firmly in place.

Mr James said: "Casts are put on when the wrist is still inflamed. When the inflammation goes down, they become loose and don't support the break properly. Sometimes you can get another break."

The new support avoids that because more gel can be pumped in as the swelling subsides.



Adam James yesterday with the wrist brace that could supersede the plaster cast

Doctors divided on charging patients

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL practitioners voted against charging for health services yesterday but about a third of the 400 delegates at their annual conference backed the idea of asking patients to pay.

In a short but passionate debate, doctors said that resources were running out. Dr Stephen Ansell, who runs an inner-city practice at Camden in central London, said the Government was trying to wriggle out of two incompatible election pledges in thinking of charging for services. Promises to improve the service could not be kept without raising taxes.

Doctors were left as the gatekeepers to an underfunded, crumbling system but they should not allow themselves to be turned into unpaid tax collectors. "That would diminish and demean us all," he said.

Dr Grant Kelly, who runs a country practice in West Sussex, warned against ignoring

where the money was to come from. Demand was increasing uncontrollably, he said, but the British did not seem to want to pay for their health care and the Government did not want to impose taxes for it.

Even though he backed the minority view that charging was necessary, he won applause from all delegates when he said: "We may have to consider that demand will have to be curbed in a way that makes the public reconsider its personal responsibility to the NHS." Charges would cut demand and save the service.

Dr Ian Bogle, a Liverpool GP who is chairman of the BMA's negotiating committee, said: "From talking to my patients I believe that the public would be prepared to pay more in taxation to run the health service, provided there is a very clear pathway between increasing the tax and health benefits."

Prints may finger DNA of criminals

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CRIMINALS who leave their fingerprints at the scene of a crime may provide detectives with more clues than they imagined. Tests have shown that sufficient DNA can be recovered from prints left by fingers or palms to provide a genetic profile of the culprit.

The method was developed by Australian police. Roland van Oorschot and Maxwell Jones, police scientists with the Victoria Forensic Science Centre, report in *Nature* that it has provided evidence in cases of attempted murder, rape, armed robbery, extortion and drug-trafficking.

Research found that genetic material presumably from sweat or skin fragments could be obtained from briefcases, car keys, telephones and gloves. They say: "There are many cases in which the genetic profile would be extremely important."

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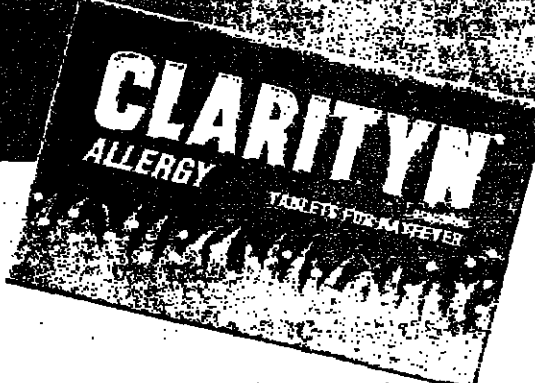
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THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

Ministry of Defence

Challenging the secrecy culture

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE ROBERTSON has proclaimed a new era of openness at the Ministry of Defence with a promise to be forthcoming when things go wrong. In his own words: "We're going to try and bust this culture of secrecy."

In an interview with *The Times*, the Defence Secretary said: "I want to delineate the areas where secrecy is not required. No Ministry of Defence can do that in every area, but where the public has a right to know then we shall be open."

The MoD has always enjoyed a culture of its own, based on a you-don't-need-to-know principle. The building remains a fortress, requiring security men to operate the revolving capsule doors to the inner sanctum. The secrecy culture has changed a little over the years.

Mr Robertson said that he was awestruck when he first took over. "In Opposition I had a staff of three and a half, now it's 350,000," he said. "I have a budget of £22 billion and an agenda that ranges from the difficult and pedestrian to things that make your hair stand on end."

What, I asked, makes your hair stand on end? He replied: "I can't tell you."

Reluctant, he offered the example of his visit to Northern Ireland ten days into the job. For a 150ft walk in



MoD building in Whitehall: a fortress run on the principle of "you don't need to know"

Crossmaglen he was guarded by 15 men armed with machineguns. "That makes your hair stand on end."

Mr Robertson's commitment to openness is already beginning to show. The strategic defence review he is carrying out with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will not be done in-house. He will bring in people from the "outside world" to help to plot Britain's strategic future.

He also listed four decisions that demonstrate his willingness to change the MoD's image: the promise to be frank with Gulf War veterans suffer-

ing from illnesses, the ban on landmines, the withdrawal of a batch of defective plastic bullets used in Northern Ireland, and changes to an Army manual used in Bosnia that was judged to be pro-Serb. "My basic principle will be to be open. That will be limited by the circumstances but we're spending a lot of public money and we need to tell people why. There are very big procurement decisions that are being made in the context of tight spending restraints at other departments and they have to be justified."

Two big-spending decisions,

however, have already been ring-fenced and will be unaffected by the six-month review: the £12 billion Trident nuclear submarine programme, and the Eurofighter aircraft project, which will cost the taxpayer more than £15 billion.

There are no other sacred cows, which means that all equipment procurement decisions, even those taken in the last few months of the previous Government, will be re-examined and will have to be justified as part of the new strategic thinking.

Mr Robertson has told his

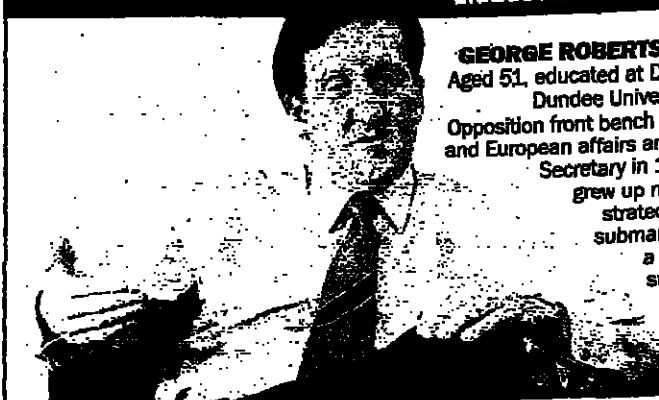
staff that while the review is under way, they should work on the assumption that the contracts signed by the previous Government would be honoured but that at any stage they might be told that a particular contract is to be cancelled.

One big strategic issue to be addressed concerns the future of the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers. If the Government wants to be involved in power projection, this will mean replacing the present three carriers by 2015. It is a long way off, but decisions may have to be taken before the turn of the century. Power projection has become one of the key phrases in Britain's defence strategy in the past five years and any move to scrap the carrier capability would be a blow to the Navy and would say more about the Government's approach to foreign policy than any cancellation of an arms export licence or pronouncement about human rights.

One low-priority decision facing Mr Robertson is on the furniture in his office. It was made for Churchill and, while he appreciates the prestige of having the great man's leather sofa and armchairs, they are not comfortable.

He also wants to put some prints on the walls from the MoD's photographic department. While looking through an album to make his choice, he quickly ruled out one of them. It was of his predecessor, Michael Portillo.

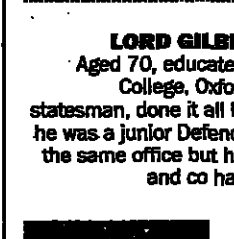
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



GEORGE ROBERTSON, Defence Secretary
Aged 51, educated at Duroon Grammar School and Dundee University. Plenty of experience on Opposition front bench on defence, Scottish, foreign and European affairs and finally as Shadow Scottish Secretary in 1993. Excited by his new job, grew up next to Holy Loch and demonstrated with CND against American submarines being based there; now a committed nuclear deterrent supporter. Keen photographer and close family man. He is the only one of four generations of his family not to join the police force.



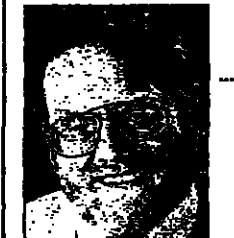
JOHN REID, Armed Forces Minister
Aged 50, educated at St Patrick's Senior Secondary School, Coatbridge, and Stirling University, has PhD in economic history; was Opposition spokesman on defence, disarmament and arms control from 1990-1997 and deputy to the Shadow Defence Secretary from 1995-97; laid the foundations for new Labour when he was asked by Neil Kinnock to draw up a blueprint for how the party should change. He described Labour's policies as obsolete and voter-unfriendly. Bright, chirpy, plain-speaking, smokes a lot in the office, gets in before 8am.



LORD GILBERT, Defence Procurement Minister
Aged 70, educated at Merchant Taylors' School and St John's College, Oxford. Has PhD from New York University. Elder statesman, done it all before in the last Labour Government, when he was a junior Defence Procurement Minister from 1976-79. Has the same office but has already changed the pictures; Wellington and co have been replaced by maps - he likes maps.



JOHN SPELLAR, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Aged 49, educated at Dulwich College and St Edmund's Hall, Oxford. Was Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland from 1994-95 and on defence from 1995-97. Relatively unknown, his responsibilities will include claims casework, low flying and Service museums.



SYLVIA HEAL, Parliamentary Private Secretary
Aged 54, educated at Eifed Secondary Modern School, in Buckley, Wales, and University College, Swansea. Served on the Education Select Committee and on Labour's front bench as Shadow Health Minister and as deputy to the late Jo Richardson, spokeswoman on women's issues. Has been a member of the Advertising Standards Authority since 1992 and is a Justice of the Peace.



ALASDAIR MCGOWAN, special adviser
Aged 26, educated at University College, Oxford, research assistant to Martin O'Neill, Shadow Energy Minister, 1992-1993, research assistant to George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, 1993-1997. He is a member of the Fabian Society.



RICHARD MOTTRAM, Permanent Under-Secretary
Aged 51, educated at King Edward VI Camp Hill School, Birmingham, and Keele University. Has spent most of his Civil Service career at the Ministry of Defence but was the first PUS at the new Office of Public Service and Science from 1992-95. Friendly, open, non-mandarin type, has a way with words and a first-class brain and could make it to Cabinet Secretary.



The In-Tray

Personnel issues:

- Recruiting for the Army needs to be boosted significantly to cover a hefty shortfall.
- Should women be allowed into combat? The previous Government decided to let women go to sea and train to be fighter pilots but balked at women as frontline infantry.
- Will the new ministers be forced by the European courts to overturn the ban on homosexuals serving in the Armed Forces? There are cases

pending in the European Court on Human Rights and the European Court of Justice which will have an impact on all equal treatment policies.

- Will Gulf War syndrome be medically proven and what will be the financial implications? John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, has taken a sympathetic line on this long-running question but it could cost millions of pounds in compensation.
- How can more Afro-Caribbeans and Asians be persuaded to join the Forces? Labour has inherited a recruitment shortfall, especially in the Army, and new attempts will have to be made to encourage

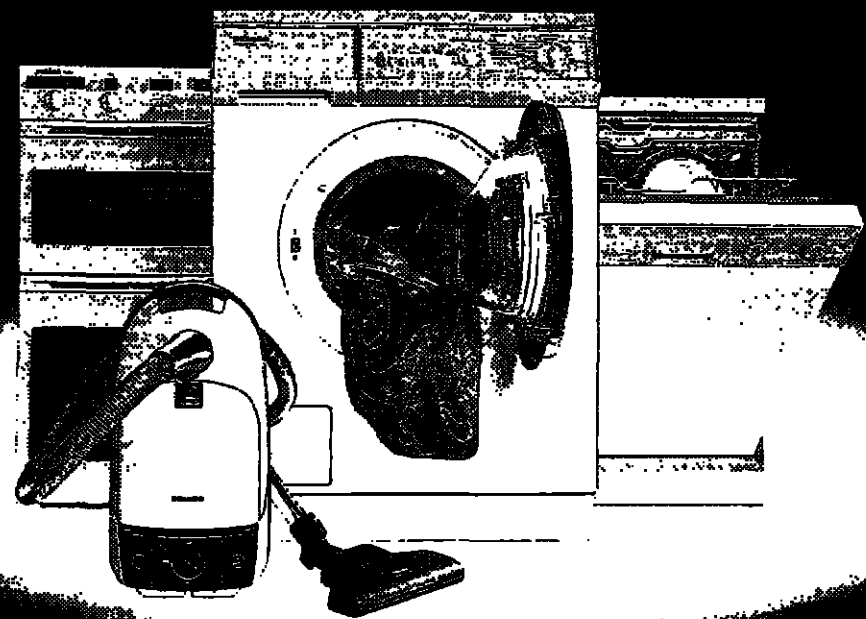
young men and women from the ethnic minorities to join up.

Procurement:

- After the setting up of a strategic defence review, a long list of equipment contracts are now back in the melting pot. Decisions will have to be made on contracts already approved by the previous Government. They include: Two new amphibious assault ships, HMS Albion and HMS Bulwark, to replace the ageing HMS Intrepid and HMS Fearless, at a cost of £550 million.
- Three Astute class nuclear submarines, with a new reactor system, costing £2 billion.
- Twelve Horizon class frigates to be built with the French and Italians to replace the Type 42 destroyers. Total cost for the three partners will be about £5 billion.
- The Royal Navy wants to buy 12.
- Twenty Nimrod 2000 maritime patrol aircraft for the RAF, costing £2 billion.
- A conventionally armed stand-off missile for the RAF, costing £800 million.
- An anti-armour missile for the RAF, costing £700 million.

Some big equipment projects have gone too far to be cancelled: HMS Ocean, a helicopter carrier, costing £180 million, is due to come into service in August.

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Donald Wales and the new Bluebird Electric

Green power regenerates the spirit of Bluebird

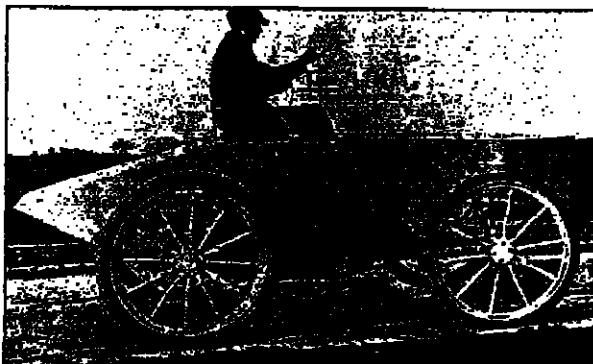
By KEVIN EASON
 MOTORING EDITOR

THE name is familiar but the Bluebird Electric, which could take a descendant of the Campbells into the world land-speed record books, is distinctly futuristic.

Donald Wales is the godson and nephew of Donald Campbell and the grandson of Sir Malcolm Campbell, who between them broke more than 20 speed records on land and water. He plans to be the next in the dynasty to fight for a world record but unlike his forebears wants to use green technology by driving an electric car.

On the famous sands at Pendine in Carmarthen Bay, where the Campbells set several records, Mr Wales hopes to hurdle at over 200mph in September to the accompaniment of little more than wind noise and a pleasant whirr as the electric motors spin at up to 20,000 revs a minute — faster than the engine of a Formula One car.

Mr Wales announced the £400,000 attempt on the elec-



Count Chasseloup-Laubat reaching 39.24mph in 1898

tric car record in London yesterday at the new Bluebird Café in Chelsea opened by Sir Terence Conran as a tribute to the famous line of machines used by the Campbells.

Past Bluebirds relied on conventional internal combustion technology, using vast aircraft engines drinking gallons of fuel to attain speeds of up to 400mph.

Mr Wales pointed out that the first world land-speed record was set 99 years ago in an electric car when Count Gaston de Chasseloup-

Laubat got his Jeantaud to 39.24mph. "This project is partly to help change the perceptions about electric power, that somehow it does not work and can never replace petrol power," he said. "By travelling at more than 200mph, we hope to show that the technology is arriving and can translate into road-going cars."

The Bluebird Electric does away with the traditional central motor, which has been hampered by its short range. The land-speed car has an

electric motor on the hub of each rear wheel, generating 200 brake horsepower.

The system, which needs no conventional gearbox or axles, has been tested successfully in a racing car built by Reynard, the British manufacturer of racers for the American IndyCar series.

The record attempt Bluebird will be ultra-light, according to Chris Humberstone, a leading race car constructor, who will build it. It will use the same advanced composite materials as found in a Formula One car and be sleek and low, running on tyres developed specially by Michelin, the company that supplied Count Jenatzy on an 1899 run to 60mph, also in an electric car.

Mr Humberstone said: "We are on a rapid learning curve but British engineers lead the world in racing-car technology so we want to show that with the same application, we can break through another frontier and make environmentally friendly electric engines which can work in ordinary road cars."



Donald Campbell in 1962, in an earlier Bluebird

African village picks English don to be chief

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN ENGLISH professor has been chosen as the chief of an African village in recognition of the good works he has carried out for its people.

John Knapton, 48, a structural engineering specialist at Newcastle University, will be carried shoulder-high through Ekumfi-Atakwa in Ghana at his investiture on September 5. He will be expected to wear full tribal regalia and will be presented with a shepherd's crook, a symbol of his role as the village guardian.

His grateful subjects have already sent him his ceremonial seat, a carved wooden stool, which has pride of place in the living room of his home at Whitley Bay on Tyneside.

Professor Knapton, who is married and whose son and daughter are students at Newcastle, said yesterday: "It is a tremendous honour and I am extremely grateful, but I have to admit that it has come as something of a shock. They

will also give me six acres of land, which I am told is rich in gold deposits, but the drawback is that the land is also infested with crocodiles, so I don't expect to go out prospecting for fear of being eaten alive."

The title marks the help that Professor Knapton has given over the past two years to the coastal village 60 miles from the capital, Accra. He first heard of Ekumfi-Atakwa almost 20 years ago through Kwesi Andam, a villager and former student who kept in contact.

Professor Knapton has visited Ghana several times but saw the village only two years ago. He was appalled by the lack of education: only half the children could afford schooling. He asked the Ghanaian Government the cost of educating the remaining 60 until school-leaving age and raised the modest £200 within days.

He said: "Another problem was that many didn't speak English and therefore cannot trade their crops effectively. We raised money to buy 72 clockwork radios so that they could listen to English teaching programmes."

"Because we raised the money to send extra children to school, the facilities have to be improved. So this year a dozen of our second-year civil engineers will build an improved school and library complex to Western standards."



Professor Knapton: will wear full tribal regalia

Helper thought tourist was talking Torquay

THE view along the coast did not look much like Istanbul, but it was night so Kumiko Tsuchida did not immediately realise her mistake (Neil Graves writes). It was left to the police to explain to the confused Japanese tourist that she was not in Turkey.

She was in Torquay. Mrs Tsuchida, 40, does not speak much English. She had been visiting London, and was taking the train to Heathrow for a flight to Turkey when she took her wrong

turn. A police spokesman said: "When she got to Reading, she apparently asked directions and whoever it was misheard her. They put her on the 8.15 train to Torquay, arriving shortly before midnight."

Police at the Devon resort found her at 2am: "She believed she was in Turkey. She thought she had been through the Channel tunnel." Mrs Tsuchida was later put on a train back to Reading, where she was guided to Heathrow.

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Trawlermen spot catch in quota-hopping accord

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, AND MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR yesterday hailed an agreement with the European Commission as an important first step towards ending the dispute on fishing quotas.

British ministers announced that the European Commission had backed proposals to force fishing boat owners to prove they were contributing "substantial economic benefits" to the country where they are registered. The Government also argued that the Commission's backing opened the way for Britain to introduce changes to fishing licences, although industry leaders doubted such a step could be taken unilaterally.

The move is intended to set in place further negotiations over rule changes that would force vessels to land more than half their catch in the country of registration, or to have a majority of their crew resident there.

The plans, agreed between Mr Blair and Jacques Santer, the Commission President, are aimed mainly at stopping Spanish-owned fishing fleets registered in the UK landing their catches in Spain. However, if implemented, such restrictions would curb British

FISHING DEAL

vessels that fish overseas and bring catches back to Britain. Despite British ministers' claims of a breakthrough, fishermen's leaders were "hugely disappointed", criticising the proposals as having little practical effect as they were not binding on member states.

Bob Allan, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, said: "There must remain doubt whether even this limited agreement is legally watertight. The crucial element that is missing is any test of ownership, namely a requirement that there should be a minimum percentage of British nationals among the owners of these vessels."

A spokesman for the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, representing trawlermen in England and Wales, said the deal would achieve little: "It may inconvenience some of the quota-hopper vessels, maybe increase their costs, but it certainly will not remove them from the register."

There are 160 foreign-owned vessels that (quite le-

gally) fly a British flag of convenience so they can take catches from the fish quota allocated to the British trawler fleet. Because of their size, quota-hoppers account for about 25 per cent of the tonnage, and hence catching capacity.

If quota-hoppers are forced to land at least half their catch in Britain, there would be some benefit to the local economy if fish were processed here. But trawlermen's representatives said that was unlikely. Mike Townsend, chief executive of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said: "The fish will be unloaded into refrigerated trucks and taken by road and ferry to Spain."

The fishing industry had wanted a protocol added to the Treaty of Rome that would have enabled Britain to ban quota-hopping by insisting on majority British ownership of licensed fishing vessels. Instead, Mr Blair has won a more limited deal based on an exchange of letters with Mr Santer which may be open to legal challenge by Spain.

Ministers insisted that the Commission's "statement of intention" would pave the way for "constructive dialogue" with European ministers. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said: "Because we have agreed a way forward with the Commission, we are in a much better position to avoid legal challenge to the measures we adopt."

However, Tony Baldry, Shadow Fisheries Minister, branded the deal a "comprehensive sell-out", accusing the Government of betraying British fishermen in a "black day" for the industry.

Mr Blair returned to the Commons to claim that Britain's Amsterdam summit objectives were "fully achieved. We have proved to the people of Britain that we can get a better deal by being constructive and we have proved to Europe that Britain can be a leading player."

John Major condemned much of the negotiations as "botched and incomplete" and told Mr Blair: "What you have reported is not a triumph but a travesty."

Jack Straw, page 22
Leading article, page 23



John Major at the dispatch box yesterday at his last Prime Minister's Questions session as Opposition Leader

Major unpicks the emperor's clothes

Paddy Ashdown put it best. In a tribute to John Major, whose swansong this was, he described him as privately "unfathomably straight" and went on to suggest that he was the only Leader who might have kept the Conservative Party together. Major smiled. The Tories laughed.



Their laughter was rueful, and the more so because, moments earlier, Major had been knocking the Prime Minister around cruelly. He asked Tony Blair to rule out

any curtailment of pensioners' rights to free prescriptions, or any charges for hospital beds.

Blair failed to do so, explaining that a full-scale review was under way and "of course, once you start ruling out things..." Tories jeered. The Prime Minister then returned to what has become a familiar refrain when he is under pressure, "the mess the Tories left behind". He then offered a short sermon on the need for value for money.

"I'm tempted to ask whether anyone in the House has the faintest idea what any of that nonsense may mean," retorted Major, and repeated his question. "Yes or no?"

Blair launched another attack on the Tories' health record, and added that this was "an open-ended review" and the Official Opposition had a cheek asking a question about health at all.

Major asked it again. Blair attacked the Tories' record again. Then he began a series of rhetorical enquiries — "WHO was it who introduced charges for eye-tests? WHO was it who...?" — to which the Labour benches chorused "THEY did!"

It was like the heyday of Margaret Thatcher. Within three sessions, we are right back to the good old screaming matches and "negative" politics which Blair had sworn to sweep away.

Major asked his question again, received no reply, and finished with a scathing soundbite about Blair's earlier appeal to "trust me".

In fact the Prime Minister had a point. Major knew it. It is a slippery slope to start ruling out options before a review is complete. Failing to rule something out is not the same as ruling it in. But unless you do, you open

yourself to cheap shots, and after seven years as their target, Major was savouring the pleasure of taking aim himself. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, whose remarks had triggered this row, grinned and nodded whenever Blair spoke — the only man on the Government front bench seemingly unaware that it is he, not pensioners' free prescriptions, who is for the chop.

Major enjoyed himself again, minutes later, after the Prime Minister had reported on the results of the Amsterdam summit. Blair was doing what he does best: describing in the broadest terms, with grand and confident sweep, the distant horizon. Major did what he does best: examining every stitch of the victor's robes, observing a button raising here, a hem left untrimmed there, a potentially disastrous unfinished seam down the seat of the pants.

After Blair sat down, we felt sure he had returned in triumph. After Major sat down, we wondered how secure that triumph might be.

As Major fired detailed questions after question at the PM, Blair became unable to keep up, scribbling notes and scrabbling through pieces of paper in preparation for his reply. We knew that he was rattled by the appearance, twice, in his answers by "the fact of the matter is..."

Along with "if I may say so" this is one of the Prime Minister's favourites. We have often heard from him "the fact is..." Early yesterday he moved, under pressure from Major, to "the fact of the matter is..." Finally, under further pressure from Major, he spluttered "the plain fact of the matter is..."

When Tony Blair says "If I may say so, the absolutely plain fact of the matter is..." citizens are advised to panic and flee the country.

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Acclaim for Blair fails to dispel confusion in Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN AMSTERDAM

THE new Treaty of Amsterdam was greeted across Europe yesterday as a meagre achievement that exposed the disarray among the 15 member states but was notable for British concessions that brought London closer to the mainstream of European Union business.

While Britain won an opt-out over borders and resisted moves to give the European Union defence powers, its entry into the social chapter was widely welcomed. A special arrangement is being worked out to enable Britain to join in law-making under the chapter before it officially accedes in about 18 months.

EU officials admired Tony Blair's enthusiasm for negotiation and were delighted that he had accepted a new "flexibility" system in the treaty. This is an arrangement for a multi-speed EU in which actions could be launched by majority voting and not directly subject to any veto. Mr Blair was given assurances that states would be given the means to block joint moves, but some uncertainty yesterday surrounded the extent of the guarantee that he had received.

The deal includes incorporation of the so-called "Luxembourg compromise" into the flexibility arrangement. The compromise is an understanding that stems from the early days of the EU, never formalised and rarely used, which allows states to block a decision on the ground of supreme national interest.

As Dutch officials tried yesterday to piece together a text from the small hours' endgame in Amsterdam, they said it was not clear whether the effective veto would apply to

ANALYSIS

all areas or merely foreign and security policy.

Mr Blair impressed fellow leaders by intervening to mediate in disputes among others. When Spain dug in its heels over plans for majority voting, he went with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, to a separate room to persuade the Spanish leader to compromise. "We would never have seen John Major do that," said a German diplomat.

However, Mr Blair's claim of a separate accord with the European Commission to curb quota-hopping by foreign fishing vessels raised eyebrows. The deal was dismissed by Spanish officials as meaningless. Commission officials were annoyed that London had depicted the exchange of letters as an agreement.

Dennmark hailed the stronger rules on the environment, for example, and France trumpeted the "employment chapter" and a parallel declaration that enshrines job creation as an EU priority.

The main failure was the abandonment of the attempt to rebalance voting weights and revamp the Commission. This means that the issue must be reopened when the Union is already negotiating with its first batch of likely new members. Cyprus and candidates from the former Communist bloc are due to start entry talks in January.

Herr Kohl, who played an unusually negative role at the summit and blocked several moves to deeper integration, called the result a reasonable compromise: "You could not expect everyone to manage to impose his ideal on Europe."

France, which spent much of the time in dispute with Germany over monetary rules and moves to integrate immigration and asylum rules, spoke openly of the breakdown of the Bonn-Paris tandem that has always driven the EU.

"Germany is having problems it did not have before," said Hubert Védrine, the Foreign Minister. "France is evolving. It has its problems and its social demands, its new political situation," he said.



Helmut Kohl arrives at his weekly Cabinet meeting in Bonn yesterday. He has decided to abandon any kind of defensive campaign tactics over the euro

Kohl stakes election hopes on the euro

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

GERMANY

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has decided to make the euro a central part of his re-election campaign next year despite the persistently strong popular opposition to abandoning the mark.

The German leader let slip his decision in a meeting with a group of German journalists at the Amsterdam summit and left his party managers bemused.

So far the focus of Christian Democratic strategy in the long run-up to the elections in September next year has been how to save the country's governing coalition in the face of a hostile electorate, how to win despite the euro, rather than because of it.

Yesterday opinion surveys indicated that 60.7 per cent of Germans do not believe the euro will bring economic stability to Germany, and 64.4 per cent say their savings will lose value.

But the Chancellor has decided to go on the offensive, partly to exploit the divisions in the Social Democratic opposition.

The Social Democratic leaders are split. Oskar Lafontaine, the chairman, wants the euro to start on time, if necessary with a flexible reading of the Maastricht criteria, but Gerhard Schröder, the Lower Saxony Prime Minister, favours delaying economic and monetary union if the "target deficit" of not more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product is not met precisely.

Herr Kohl's aim is also to flush out leading members of his Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, who in the guise of campaigning for a hard euro are quietly undermining both the project and Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister and CSU chairman. The fact is the euro would almost certainly have dominated the campaign anyway — the choice of who takes part in EMU is made in the spring, the election is in September — and so Herr Kohl has decided to abandon any kind of defensive tactics.

In practical terms that will mean two things: that the Chancellor will do all in his power to establish the probability of Germany's efforts to meet the EMU fiscal targets and that he probably will plead for a start-up with a few countries because there is deep German opposition to early Italian participation in the single currency.

Certainly, there seems suddenly to be some confidence in Bonn that Germany can indeed come close to meeting the 3 per cent target. The misconceived plan to revalue German gold has been shelved — though only until next year — and talks will be held this week between Herr Waigel and the Bundesbank on revaluing currency reserves.

The central bank has hinted that the profits from such a revaluation could, unlike the

gold, be used to help Germany's budget problems this year. Franz-Christoph Zeidler, a Bundesbank council member, while not directly addressing the question of reserves, gave an unusually upbeat assessment yesterday of Germany's chances of hitting the target. "I remain of the opinion that there is a good and realistic chance that Germany will meet the 3 per cent goal; the target has an important function for the credibility of the euro," he said.

Members of the government coalition met again yesterday to try to reach a common position on reforming the tax system. Even these talks, bursting with spoken and unspoken threats over the past fortnight, have calmed down and have an optimistic tone.

The Chancellor naturally has claimed the Amsterdam summit as a success, and the German press has cautiously accepted his verdict. "The European Union lives, although it has breathing problems," the Bonn General Anzeiger said.

Anglo-German co-operation on employment was praised. But the general tone of politicians and pundits was that Amsterdam demonstrated the inherent sluggishness of the process of European integration and the political class seemed to agree that a Maastricht Three and a Maastricht Four conference would be necessary.

Oppressive nations can lose votes

THE main points of the new Treaty of Amsterdam are:

- Freedom, Security, Justice: The treaty allows the EU to suspend the voting rights of any country which persistently violates these basic freedoms.

- The Union and the citizen: An employment chapter is included in the treaty. The aim is for the Council of Ministers to produce a "co-ordinated strategy for employment". The social chapter will be integrated into the treaty.

- An effective common foreign and security policy: Common strategies will be defined by unanimous decision on such issues.

- The institutions of the Union: The leaders failed almost entirely to make progress on this issue.

- Enhanced co-operation — flexibility: Member states will be able to move forward in limited areas without waiting for all other countries, provided that a qualified majority agrees. (Reuters)



Aznar: compromise after Blair mediation

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French hold 600 in two-day hunt for paedophiles

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FRENCH police made more than 600 arrests in a two-day hunt for child pornographers that ended yesterday. Dawn raids were made on more than 800 homes.

Among those arrested were two priests, a dozen teachers and the director of a children's holiday camp, police said. The operation also uncovered seven cases of rape involving up to a dozen children.

Yesterday 181 people were placed under formal investigation for the possession of images involving the corruption of minors under 15.

Investigators targeted the homes of customers suspected of receiving paedophile videos by mail order from a company based in Mâcon, about 50 miles north of Lyons. Police said they had seized thousands of pornographic videos — 307 of them involved children. Jean-Louis Coste, the state prosecutor who oversaw the swoop, said that one of the videos showed the rape of five boys by one of the men detained, who had apparently also shot the video. Another video showed sexual acts between children and animals.

According to M Coste, the children shown in the films were mainly young boys aged between 13 and 15. Many of the videos had been bought by the company outside France, mostly in Spain and Poland and had then been copied for resale. More than 400 documents, including photographs, magazines and

advertisements were also removed as evidence by police looking for valuable leads.

The massive operation, codenamed "Ado 71" after the French word for teenager and the car registration number for the Mâcon region, was the result of 14 months of painstaking detective work. Two and a half thousand gendarmes took part in the operation, fanning out across mainland France, as well as the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, to search the homes of the 814 people whose names appeared on the Mâcon firm's mailing lists. M Coste said the justice system had wanted "to kick the ants' nest" of paedophiles.

The crackdown coincides with France's first major paedophilia trial, the result of a similar operation in April 1996: 72 Frenchmen are ac-

cused of organising or subscribing to the Toro Bravo network, which imported pornographic films involving boys from Colombia. The main defendants, Miguel Caignet, 42, a former neo-Nazi militant, accused of promoting the cassettes in pornographic magazines, and Michel Meigniez, 42, charged with their distribution, claim they thought the boys were over 18.

Elisabeth Guigou, the Justice Minister, said yesterday she would review the laws on paedophilia. While refusing "to make statements on such a serious issue", she believed the judicial system had what was "necessary for the moment" to fight child abuse.

President Chirac pledged last month to introduce new measures to protect children from "depravity" after six incidents involving teachers suspected of molesting pupils.

In ten years the number of recorded cases of incest and child rape has multiplied six-fold in France, while sentences for indecent assault of minors rose by 65 per cent between 1984 and 1993.

The trial of eight suspected paedophiles opens today in Calais. The men are charged with the rape of 15 minors aged 15. Under French law they could get 20 years in prison. If those arrested this week are found guilty of being in possession of child pornography they could receive up to ten years in prison, and a Fr1,000 (£100,000) fine.



Guigou: will review laws on child sex



Supporters in Berat hail Albania's Socialist leader, Fatos Nano, who was yesterday threatened by gunmen, at an election campaign rally. Growing violence led Bashkim Fino, the Prime Minister, to call for tours to end

Thousands mourn Russian poet

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

TENS of thousands of mourners braved rain and whipping winds yesterday to queue for hours to pay their last respects to Bulat Okudzhava, the poet and singer who inspired generations of Russians from the 1960s onward.

Okudzhava died last week in Paris after suffering an attack of pneumonia. He was 73. Yesterday his body lay in

state, surrounded by a great heap of roses, carnations and lilies, on the stage of the Vakhtangov theatre on the Arbat, the Moscow street that was a theme of his songs. Wreaths from prominent public figures, including President Yeltsin, were stacked at the back of the stage.

In place of the solemn dirges routinely piped out on such occasions, Okudzhava's voice played in the background, with his guitar accompani-

ment, singing many of the songs for which he will be remembered.

His widow, Olga, sat with friends and family at the side of the stage, her eyes fixed on the face of her husband in the raised open coffin, apparently oblivious to the line of people shuffling slowly past, stooping in turn to add more flowers to the pile. The auditorium was packed with admirers, sitting in silent vigil.

When the theatre doors

opened at 10am the queue stretched hundreds of yards, five and six people abreast, along the Arbat. Four hours later, when the ceremony had been due to end, the queue was as long as ever.

"He was our youth and our conscience," said Pyotr Lazarev, a pensioner who saw Okudzhava perform in the 1960s. "He is a vital link to our past life and in these times it is very important not to forget, to preserve those memories."

Cockroaches and Swiss music drive German tourists to law

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

A FAWLTY TOWERS world of cockroaches, cold breakfasts and marching columns of ants is conjured up by a new report outlining the many reasons for which disappointed German holidaymakers can sue their tour operator.

The report, issued by the Adac motorists' organisation yesterday, is entitled *Decisions in Travel Law*, but it could equally have been called "Holidays from Hell". Ger-

man tourists are notoriously litigious, forcing their travel companies to have some of the most honest catalogues in the world. Some tourists set out on holiday determined to find fault and thus win a rebate: this report is a gift for the critical traveller.

"The traveller can claim a 100 per cent rebate if ten cockroaches can be found within a square yard of his or her hotel room after the light has been switched on," a Frankfurt court concluded. "Since cockroaches are afraid of the light it can safely

be assumed that the actual cockroach density is much higher than ten. The mere presence of cockroaches can justify a 50 per cent reduction." In another case, the judges decided that troops of ants advancing up a bedpost qualified the guests for a 25 per cent rebate.

The tourist should not overlook, however, a ruling by the regional court in Hanover: "A small insect found in a large pot of soup is not in itself sufficient for compensation since after the insect has been removed the soup can still be enjoyed."

Dogs that bark in the night can lead to a 27.5 per cent rebate for a sleepless tourist, according to a Frankfurt verdict reported by Adac. Tour operators can be sued if their four-star hotels have dirty swimming pool lavatories. If the door to a hotel lavatory cannot be closed, the German tourist can expect a 2 per cent reduction in price.

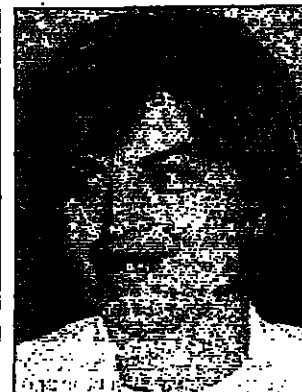
Germans are Europe's most enthusiastic tourists, but the country's courts seem to spend a great deal of time fending off complaints about the lack of pumpnickel bread in

Caribbean hotels, sexual harassment on the beach ("sexual approaches on a public beach do not represent a failure of the tour operator", Frankfurt regional court) and claims reflecting ignorance about foreign cultures.

It is impossible not to feel sorry for the Germans who booked a luxury Caribbean cruise with the promise of nightly entertainment only to find that the amusement was a Swiss folklore group. The court sympathised and allowed the travellers to sue the travel company.

Do German tourists attract holiday disaster or do they merely travel more? The Adac presents a chronicle that could have been drawn from Job: mice found nesting in clothes, wild street cats jumping through windows, hurricanes, rude waiters, robbed hotel safes, exploding lavatories and salmonella epidemics.

The Germans who visited Fawltly Towers — John Cleese famously alerted his staff "not to mention the war" — seem to have been experiencing a rather average holiday.



Ciller: has promised early general election

Erbakan quits in move to outflank military

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

NECMETTIN ERBAKAN, the first pro-Islamic Turkish Prime Minister, submitted his resignation yesterday as part of a plan to outmanoeuvre the country's military.

Mr Erbakan will now try to persuade President Demirel to hand the premiership to Tansu Ciller, leader of the junior coalition partner. Mrs Ciller has promised to lead the country to an early poll. Mr Erbakan has said that such an election will be a referendum on the military's attempt to brand his Welfare Party as Islamic fundamentalist.

Many commentators predict that an early poll would give Welfare a greater share of the vote than the 21 per cent they received in the December 1995 election. The military entered the political fray in February when they insisted that the Government take tough measures to stop what they described as the country's drift from its pro-Western and pro-secular orientation.

The Government's failure to do so has increased the military's irritation.

It now remains up to Mr Demirel to decide whether to mandate Mrs Ciller to form a new Cabinet and thereby risk more confrontation with the military. Turkey's Constitution make no provision for swapping prime ministers and some jurists argue that Mr Demirel would be within his rights to ask Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the Opposition, to do the job.

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Pol Pot 'surrenders' to Khmer Rouge rivals

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

POL POT, who ranks with Hitler and Stalin as one of the most brutal figures of the 20th century, has surrendered to his former comrades, the Khmer Rouge, radio reported last night.

"Pol Pot came to confess," said the station, which is thought to broadcast from Khmer Rouge headquarters at Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia. "The darkness of the brutal regime which hung over Cambodia between 1975 and 1979 has ended," it added. "The new regime has started. The people can now live peacefully."

The announcement was described as a special declaration of the National Solidarity Party, the organisation set up by Khieu Samphan, the nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge, who in the past has always been a front man for Pol Pot. The radio repeated the message endlessly, and there was no further information.

There was no independent confirmation that Pol Pot had indeed surrendered or even that he was still alive. And there was no word of Khieu



Pol Pot: scepticism remains about his fate

Samphan, who had reportedly been Pol Pot's hostage since he broke with his comrades last week, or of Christopher Howes, a British mine-clearer, who was also said to be a Pol Pot hostage.

In a first reaction to the reported surrender, Lee Sanith, 29, a Cambodian marketing executive, said here: "The Cambodian people suffered so much under Pol Pot that they will rejoice at this news. If he came to Phnom

Penh to stand trial, that would be even better. But I wonder if that will ever happen because years ago King Norodom Sihanouk reported that Khieu had died, but he lived to work with Pol Pot to bring us the killing fields, in which all Cambodians lost loved ones."

There was a sense in Phnom Penh that Pol Pot would never stand trial for his crimes against humanity, even though Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of the royalist FUNCINPEC party, said on Monday that he would be handed over to an international tribunal if captured.

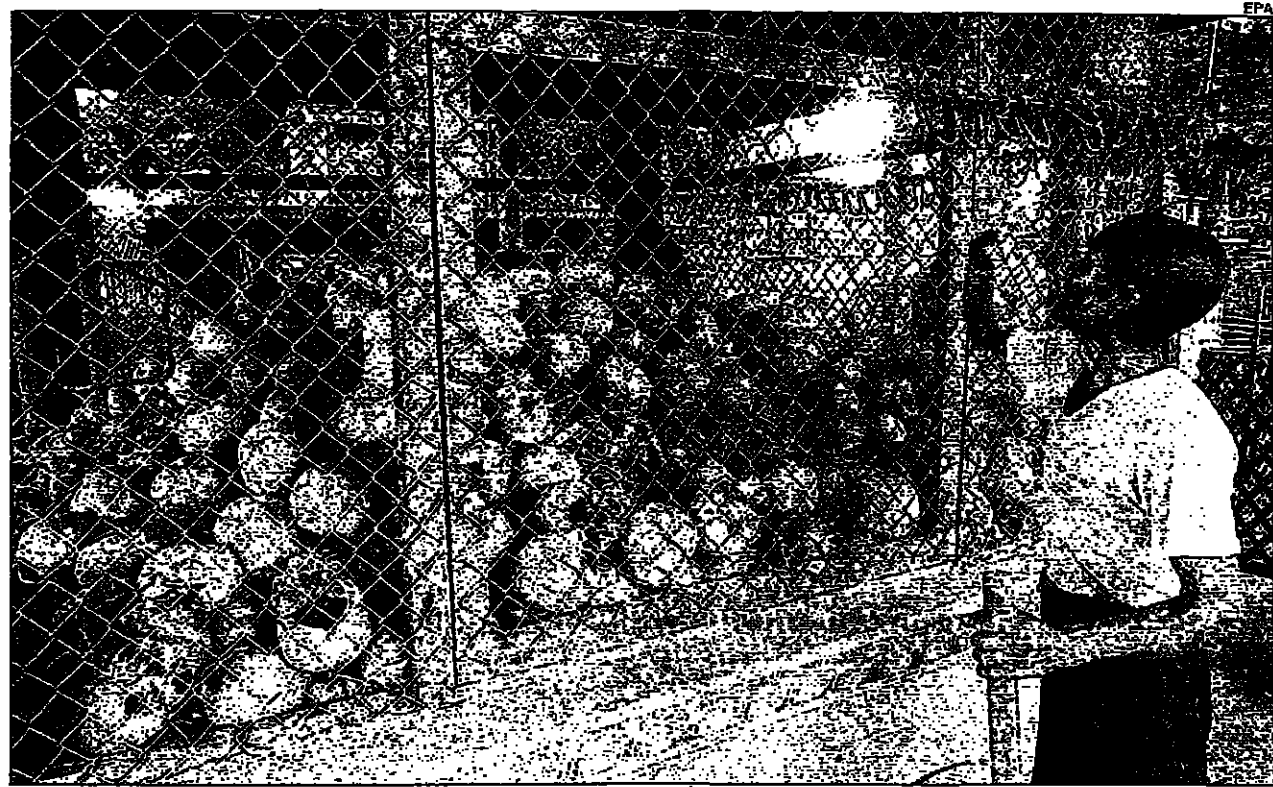
But Prince Ranariddh, the First Co-Prime Minister, also stressed "how ill, how sick" Pol Pot is from various jungle diseases such as malaria. Yet diplomats here said too many people have a vested interest in seeing that Pol Pot does not face justice. "It seems to me the whole thing has been orchestrated," said one Western ambassador here last night. "It all just sounds too pat. They'll have stressed earlier how ill he is, and I think he may not survive the trip back to Phnom Penh."

Pol Pot ruled Cambodia for nearly four harsh years during a revolution that became a byword for wanton killing and deprivation.

The present Government in Phnom Penh has pardoned other leaders of the fanatical Maoist group whose theories were born during years of study on the Left Bank in Paris, but the Government has emphasised that there can be no reconciliation with Pol Pot, whom King Sihanouk has called one of "the biggest criminals in the history of Cambodia".

The state Pol Pot created was extreme even by the standards of China's Mao Zedong from whom — along with the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau — Pol Pot drew his ideas. He modelled his bizarre philosophy on Mao's disastrous 1958-59 Great Leap Forward, and called the Cambodian Revolution the "Super Great Leap Forward".

Urban people evacuated from the cities in 1975 had to labour in the fields from before dawn until late at night.



A repository of skulls and bones, victims of the Khmer Rouge, who killed more than one million people

If people showed signs of slacking, the brutal young Khmer Rouge soldiers would tell them: "To keep you is no gain, to destroy you is no loss."

Rouge cadres got their pick of young girls. Born Saloth Sar on May 19, 1928, Pol Pot led a Cambodian peasant army to victory against the corrupt American-backed Lon Nol republic in 1975, or Year Zero as the Khmer Rouge called it. They intended to overcome the

chronic imbalance in wealth between city and country by driving the city people back into the fields to cultivate paddy fields destroyed during the years of war.

Pol Pot's guerrillas emptied Phnom Penh, at gunpoint, forcing the sick from their beds. Women, children and the old were ordered into the countryside and put to work in vast labour camps. More than one million people were executed as enemies of Pol Pot's utopian revolution, or died of disease, starvation and overwork until the Vietnamese drove the Khmer Rouge from power.

Aboriginal row mars London trip

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN SYDNEY

JOHN HOWARD, the Australian Prime Minister, begins talks with Tony Blair today amid at home and abroad over his refusal to offer a formal apology for the forcible removal of Aboriginal children from their mothers and placement with white foster parents earlier this century.

Mr Howard, who arrived yesterday for a six-day visit to Britain, made clear before leaving that he did not expect the issue to come up in talks with Mr Blair or during his visit next week to President Clinton. In an interview published in *The Times* today, he said it was "not appropriate" to ask one generation to accept responsibility for the past wrongs of another. "Clearly things were done at a time and in an age which were thought to have been justified."

Nevertheless, Bob Carr, the New South Wales Premier, yesterday offered an unreserved apology and asked Aboriginal groups to offer ideas for a memorial to acknowledge the grief.

Canberra: Republicans who want to remove the Queen as head of state said they would boycott a government-backed constitutional convention on the issue. (AP)

Australia focus, pages 42-45

Moderate quits Israeli Cabinet

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government was rocked yesterday by the resignation of Dan Meridor, the Finance Minister. Ostensibly, Mr Meridor quit in a row over monetary reform, but in reality his exit was over the style of the Israeli administration.

Friends of Mr Meridor, a long-time rival of Benjamin Netanyahu within the Likud Party, accused the Prime Minister and his close allies of creating an artificial crisis designed to force out the Finance Minister. After handing in his resignation — which takes 48 hours to come into effect — Mr Meridor said he would quit the Likud if Mr Netanyahu remained its candidate for Prime Minister at the next election in 2000.

Independent commentators said Mr Meridor's departure would reduce the Likud's electoral appeal, as he was the one leading figure able to attract floating voters put off by the Likud's hardline right-wing ideology on the peace issue.

Mr Meridor is the second minister to quit the Cabinet because of disagreements with Mr Netanyahu. The first was Benny Begin, the Science Minister and son of Menachem Begin, the former Prime Minister.

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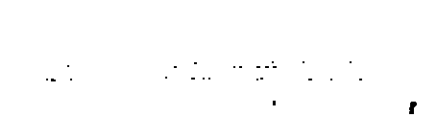
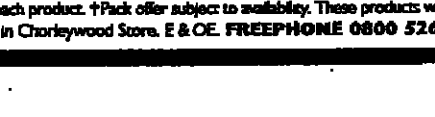
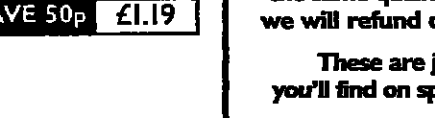
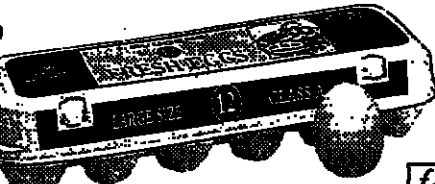
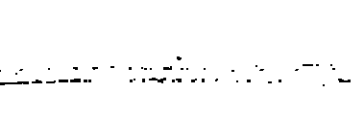
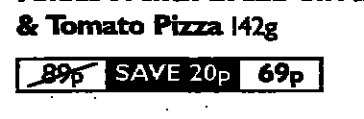
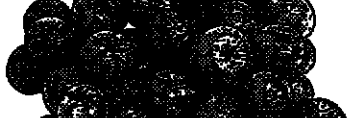
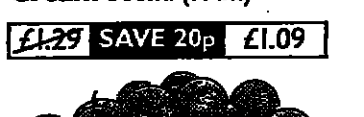
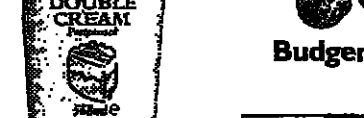
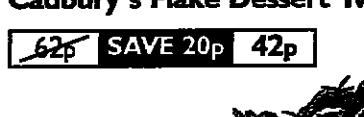
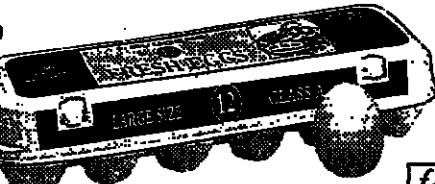
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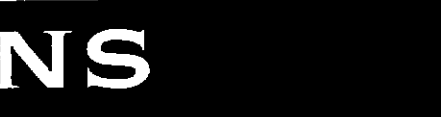
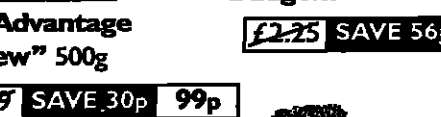
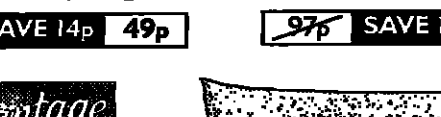
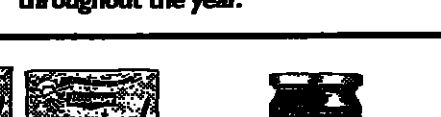
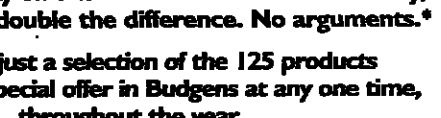
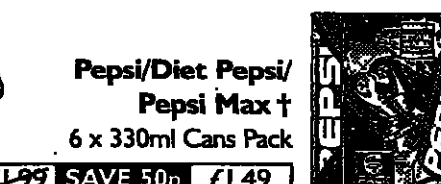
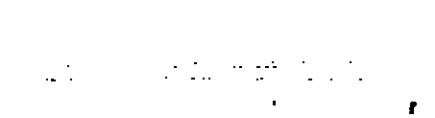
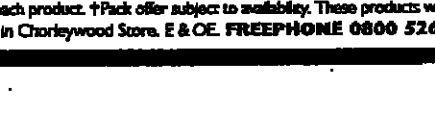
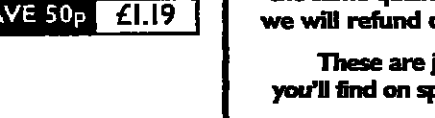
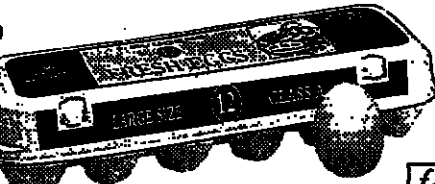
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Suspect in CIA shooting remanded in custody

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MIR AIMAL KANSI, the alleged gunman in a shooting spree outside the CIA headquarters in which two agency employees died, was detained without bail yesterday until a June 27 hearing, after an intensive manhunt trapped him in the mountainous borders of Afghanistan.

The Pakistani, who eluded covert intelligence operations for more than four years, has been charged with the murders of the two CIA men and the malicious wounding of three other employees outside the spy agency's centre at Langley, Virginia, in 1993.

Mr Kanshi, 33, is alleged to have mounted the attack during rush hour as the CIA workforce was entering the bottleneck leading to the gates. The gunman pulled out an AK-47 rifle and began calmly to strafe the windows of cars as they passed.

His first victim was Frank Darling, 28, a CIA communications officer who was sitting in a Volkswagen with his wife in the passenger seat. Mr Kanshi allegedly fired at least 70 rounds as he moved down

the line of cars, also killing Lansing Bennett, 66, an intelligence analyst, and wounding three others.

In the panic that followed, Mr Kanshi allegedly drove away and fled the country. Wearing green overalls in a courtroom in Fairfax, Virginia, yesterday, the bearded defendant, who had been placed on the FBI's list of ten most wanted fugitives and had a \$2 million (£1.22 million) reward on his head, was asked if he had a lawyer. "I don't

have one," he replied. "I don't have money for one."

President Clinton, who personally approved the final covert action to apprehend Mr Kanshi, last night praised the FBI, CIA and other intelligence agencies for his capture.

"This success demonstrates the we are determined to do what is necessary to track down terrorists and bring them to justice," the President said.

Earlier attempts to arrest Mr Kanshi in his native prov-

ince of Baluchistan, the rugged triangle where Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran meet, had failed to penetrate local tribal connections and his family's apparently close links to the Pakistani Government in Islamabad.

Pakistan on numerous occasions had refused to help the Americans, but in the end it appeared that word of the rich reward for his capture may have reached a tribal leader in Afghanistan. The FBI said that he had been handed over by a group of "Afghan individuals".

Reports that the Pakistani Government may finally have co-operated would mark a significant shift in the region.

An FBI team, including a special hostage rescue unit, had flown to Afghanistan to pick him up.

□ Bomb charge: Hani Abdel Rahim Hussein al-Sayegh, a Saudi dissident who agreed to co-operate in the FBI investigation of a bombing which killed 14 American airmen in Saudi Arabia last year, was yesterday charged with conspiracy to murder.



Mir Aimal Kanshi, right, the alleged CIA headquarters killer, arrives at court with a law enforcement officer



Claudia Kennedy, who was promoted this week as the first woman three-star general in the United States Army, says that she was sexually harassed during her career but points out that such treatment is not confined to women

US seeks to cut cost of arsenal

By TOM RHODES

AMERICA is planning to lower the cost of its strategic arsenal. Under one Pentagon option, military chiefs would cut deployed ballistic missile submarine numbers and increase the warhead count in cheaper land-based silos and on strategic bombers.

The idea is to lessen the estimated \$10 billion (£6 billion) cost of maintaining America's stockpile of 10,000 nuclear weapons between next year and 2003. Both Congress and the National Academy of Sciences, America's leading scientific advisory body, have urged the Clinton Administration both to cut costs and enhance national security.

But the Joint Chiefs of Staff remain reluctant to surrender an arsenal that has formed the backbone of America's defence for 50 years. Last year, to hasten multilateral disarmament, the Administration said it would not reduce its nuclear stockpile until the Russian parliament ratified the 1993 Start 2 treaty. But the Duma, dissatisfied with the proposed Nato expansion, is unlikely to take such action in the near future.

Republicans move to block military burial for McVeigh

By TOM RHODES

LESS than a week after Timothy McVeigh was sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing, a group of Republicans is fighting to ensure that the former Gulf War veteran is not granted a hero's burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington.

Officials at the cemetery say that under service burial regulations McVeigh, 29, could be entombed in a monument at Arlington or interred at any other military cemetery that had available space.

"There is no provision to bar convicted felons who are veterans from burial in military cemeteries," said John Metzler, the superintendent at Arlington, site of the Tomb of the Unknowns and the graves of Presidents Kennedy and Taft.

McVeigh has been sentenced to death by lethal injection at the federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana, after his trial in Denver.

Appeals against his sentence and conviction for the worst act of terrorism on American soil, which killed 168 adults and children two years ago, could take more than three years.

Regulations deny military burials for honourably discharged veterans convicted of

spying, treason, advocating the overthrow of the government or possession of nuclear weapons.

But McVeigh, who was awarded a Bronze Star in the Gulf conflict, has been convicted of crimes which are not listed under the law.

Republicans on Capitol Hill believe this loophole may mean the Oklahoma bomber is entitled to a full military funeral with a firing party, body bearers, a chaplain and an American flag.

Spencer Bachus of Alabama and Joe Knollenberg of Michigan, both congressmen, are planning to introduce Bills that would prevent all veterans convicted of crimes punishable by death from receiving such funerals or being buried in any of the country's 114 veterans' cemeteries.

Congress has for some time faced pressure from concerned veterans' groups to change the regulations. "We are opposed to any traitors or criminals convicted of terrorism or other crimes against the United States being buried in a government-run cemetery such as Arlington," said Robert Zweiman, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of America.

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Rushdie claims 'Indo-Anglian' as native tongue

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

Diana, Princess of Wales, at a gala benefit for landmine victims held at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington. She also visited Hillary Clinton at the White House as part of her campaign against landmines

In the "Comment" which opens the issue, Bill Buford, formerly of *Granta*, asks why there are so many Indian novelists. He concludes that it might be because Indians are at last finding "a voice."

Leading article page 23



Kim: formal succession expected in July

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Cats, based on T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, has grossed \$329 million (£200 million) in New York. Macavity and his friends' success is no mystery to Clive Barnes, the British theatre critic who lives here. It is one of the few shows suitable for children.

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Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on the treatment of prostate gland problems; safe levels of alcohol consumption; the risk of strokes in elderly patients; and the pain that follows from spinal disease

The trouble that comes with old age

There are few more depressing indications of male ageing than prostate trouble. Most men can tolerate thinning, greying hair, a scraggy neck and even a pot belly without feeling a loss of status. Impotence is unlikely to be widely advertised, but the man with an enlarging prostate suffers symptoms that are obvious to all who work or live with him.

A cup of tea or glass of beer too many can trigger an urgent rush to the lavatory. Occasionally the man may not make it and will leak before he gets there. The patient may also find it hard to start to pass water, or his stream may be slow. The man suffering from a benignly enlarged prostate also has troubles at night.

Discussion among doctors about the significance of PSA, prostatic specific antigen blood tests, and the best way to treat any newly detected cancer of the prostate, has lessened interest in the benign condition.

Virtually all men, if they live long enough, will suffer from some, or all, of the symptoms of an enlarging prostate. Benign prostatic hypertrophy is a normal part of the ageing process, but because of the social inconvenience it causes, and because it can cause medical complications, its treatment merits more consideration than is now being afforded.

Transurethral prostatic resection (Turps), surgical removal of the greater part of the prostate through the penis, remains a treatment of choice in most cases. The operation has its disadvantages and these, together with the possible alternative to surgery, have recently been reviewed in *Monitor* magazine by Dr Mike Kirby. Dr Kirby, a brother of Roger, who is a well known surgeon specialising in prostate operations, is a general practitioner with a particular interest in urology. Most people take prostatic

surgery in their stride. I visited one patient the day after his operation and was amazed to find him sitting up in bed conducting a board meeting with his fellow directors, who were grouped around him. In another instance, a colleague didn't want either other doctors or his patients to know that he was having surgery. I was pledged to secrecy and arranged for the operation to be performed on a Thursday. After a long weekend, he was back at work the following Tuesday.

But straightforward cases like these make it easy to forget that complications can occur. In Dr Kirby's survey, 14 per cent of operations were marred by complications, and 17 per cent of patients had problems immediately after surgery. During the three weeks following the operation, a third of the patients were incontinent, and a quarter suffered from a bladder infection. The operation nearly always resulted in retrograde ejaculation, which in many cases contributed to subsequent impotence. Within a year of prostate surgery, 28 per cent had died following complications.

These figures are depressing but it should be remembered that in many cases these patients were often elderly, but they do make a good case for medical treatment in selected cases.

Dr Kirby also suggests that keeping a watchful eye on men with an enlarging prostate — the routine usually suggested — is not always a wise course of action. A fifth of patients with symptoms are eventually admitted to hospital for emergency treatment after developing acute urinary retention. In acute retention, the patient doesn't so much find it difficult to start to urinate, but finds that he is unable to pass more than a drop or two. The bladder becomes overdistended



Methods of picking grapes may have changed but the effects of drinking too much wine continue to cause debate

How much can we safely drink?

WHILE wine merchants, vineyard owners and their customers were tasting thousands of varieties of wine from all over the world at the Bordeaux Wine Fair, doctors, scientists, politicians and lawyers had gathered in a nearby hall to discuss what was meant by a moderate consumption of alcohol.

The conference, organised by Alcohol in Moderation, also considered the size of a unit of alcohol, the standard drink. A unit now varies from 6.3g of alcohol in Austria and 8g in the UK to 19.75g in Japan. These differences can be confusing and it was suggested at the conference that the British unit of 8 g should be adopted internationally.

The British Centre for Information on Beverage Control prepared a review for the gathering on the officially recommended guidelines in 19 countries for safe drinking. It showed there were variations in what was considered safe. The French limits are the most liberal. The advice of medical experts there is for male drinkers not to exceed a bottle of wine a day, and women half a bottle.

The average levels recommended by the countries was the equivalent of between three and four British units of alcohol daily for men and half this for women. This coincides with the United States advice, which recommends that its men should have three to four units and its women just under two units daily. In Britain we recommend not more than four units a day for men, two for women. In Canada the advice to men and women is the same.

and very painful and the doctor has to insert a catheter to relieve the situation.

The alternative to surgery is taking pills, which will either reduce the size of the prostate or relax the muscles within it to improve urinary flow. The danger of acute retention can be lessened if patients are treated with proscar finasteride.

Finasteride is administered to patients with mild to moderate symptoms due to benign causes. The prostate is, nevertheless, appreciably enlarged — roughly the size of a mandarin orange. Finasteride will shrink the gland by about a fifth, delaying surgery. For smaller glands, another group of drugs, alpha blockers, can provide immediate relief by relaxing the muscle tone in the prostate, which relieves any obstruction.

Both groups of drugs have side-effects. Finasteride reduces sexual drive and may cause enlargement of the breasts. Alpha blockers can result in very low blood pressure, palpitations and drowsiness. Sometimes their muscle-relaxing powers cause incontinence.

Stroke risks for the elderly

Just before the second 1974 general election a politician, aged 80, was paid a routine visit by her doctor. The doctor noticed that her blood pressure was raised and prescribed standard hypertensive treatment. The woman's blood pressure fell dramatically and that night she suffered an ischaemic stroke, the result of a clot obstructing a cerebral blood vessel rather than the result of a bleed into the brain.

The politician's intelligence was left unimpaired, her movements were undamaged and her faculties were intact, with the single exception that she was totally unable to read or write. She could follow the political situation only by television and had to phone rather than write to her constituents. This case illustrates the very localised damage that can be suffered after a stroke and highlights the dilemma doctors experience when confronted with a raised blood pressure in an older person. The doctor needs to decide whether the increase in the incidence in ischaemic strokes will be more than balanced by the advantage of prolonging the life of someone who might

otherwise be in danger of death from a haemorrhagic stroke, one caused by a bleeding blood vessel. Both haemorrhagic strokes and heart attacks are closely associated with raised blood pressure.

A recent meta-analysis, a review of 12 well-conducted randomised controlled trials of the treatment of hypertension in the elderly, shows convincingly that the politician was unlucky. The survey, in *Health Trends*, demonstrates that there is a significant advantage to the patient in treating high blood pressure even if they are old.

A reduction in blood pressure of as little as 20mm hg (of mercury) in the systolic blood pressure, the upper of the two figures recorded by the doctor, and 10mm hg in the diastolic, the doctor's lower figure, reduced the likelihood of a stroke in aged patients by 36 per cent, and of a heart attack by 20 per cent. Mortality in those patients who were treated, most of whom were over 70, fell by 12 per cent.

In younger patients the treating of raised blood pressure and persuading patient to stop smoking have long been accepted as the most important ways to reduce the incidence of strokes. There are other means by which a doctor can achieve this end, and it has been suggested that British doctors are not as active in treating blood pressure as they should be. Recent research also shows that American doctors are more enthusiastic in their approach to stroke prevention.

The journal *Stroke* reports that in America a patient with high blood pressure is eight times more likely than a British patient to have had an ECG, a brain scan, and to be screened to exclude carotid artery disease which can lead to a stroke. More American doctors prescribe warfarin for patients whose hearts are fibrillating, an irregularity of the heart

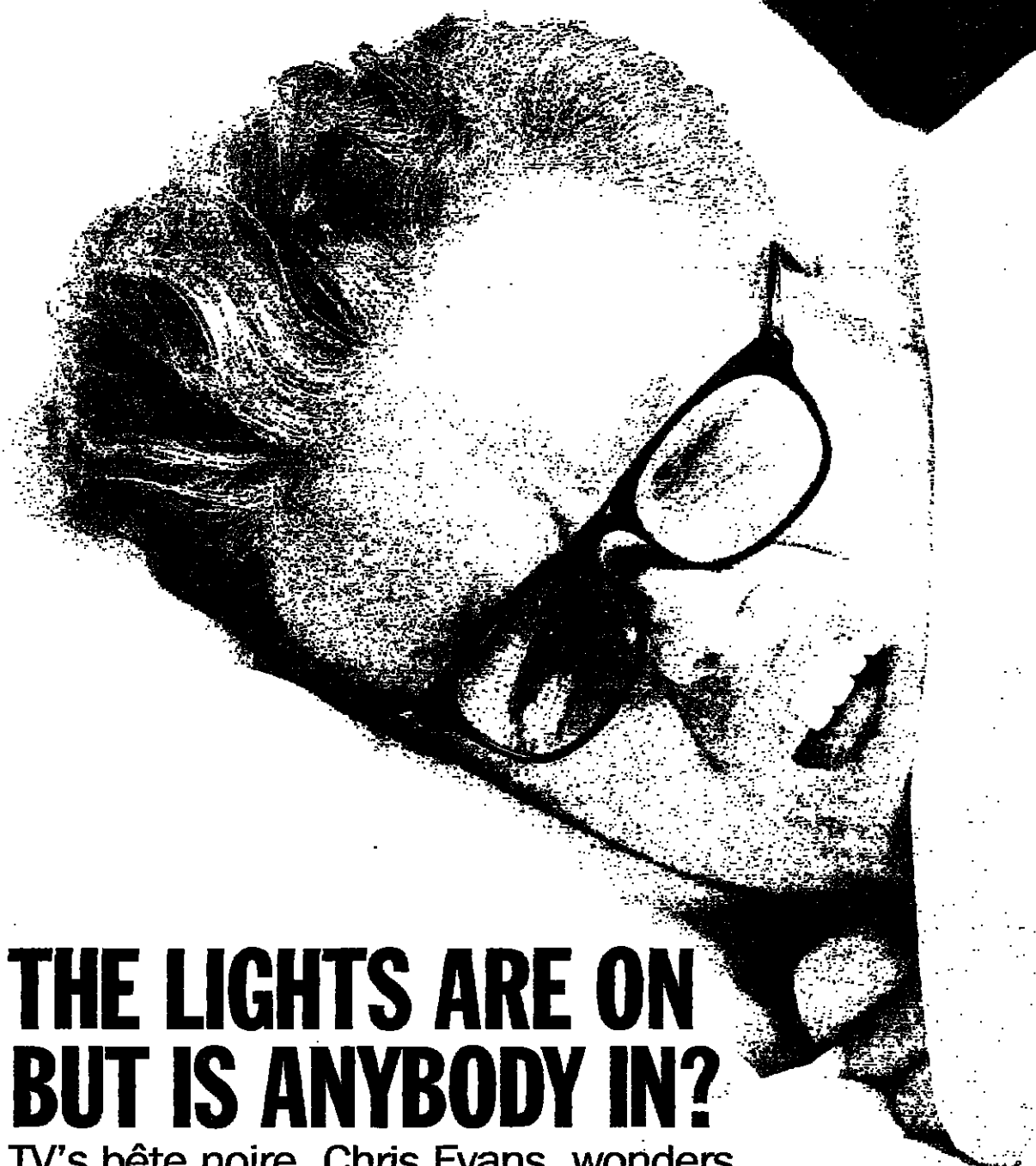
that can result in strokes. In both countries the value of aspirin in preventing strokes is well recognised but the survey was carried out before Professor Charles Forbes of Dundee had announced at a conference in Amsterdam the results of the second European stroke prevention study. This study investigated the ways of preventing a second stroke either by taking aspirin — a small dose of 25mg twice a day — or a Persantin dipyridamole 200mg tablet daily.

Both drugs appreciably reduced the incidence of a second stroke, aspirin by 18.1 per cent, Persantin by 16.3 per cent. The striking finding in the survey was that by combining the aspirin and Persantin, the patient's chance of having a second stroke fell by 37 per cent.

These figures raise the question of the best treatment for people who have had not only a first stroke but also a transient ischaemic attack, a common condition in which someone suffers the symptoms of a stroke that clear within a few hours.

What is the best treatment for people after a first stroke?

THE SUNDAY TIMES



THE LIGHTS ARE ON BUT IS ANYBODY IN?

TV's *bête noire*, Chris Evans, wonders why he makes so many people see red

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Saddam and the art lover

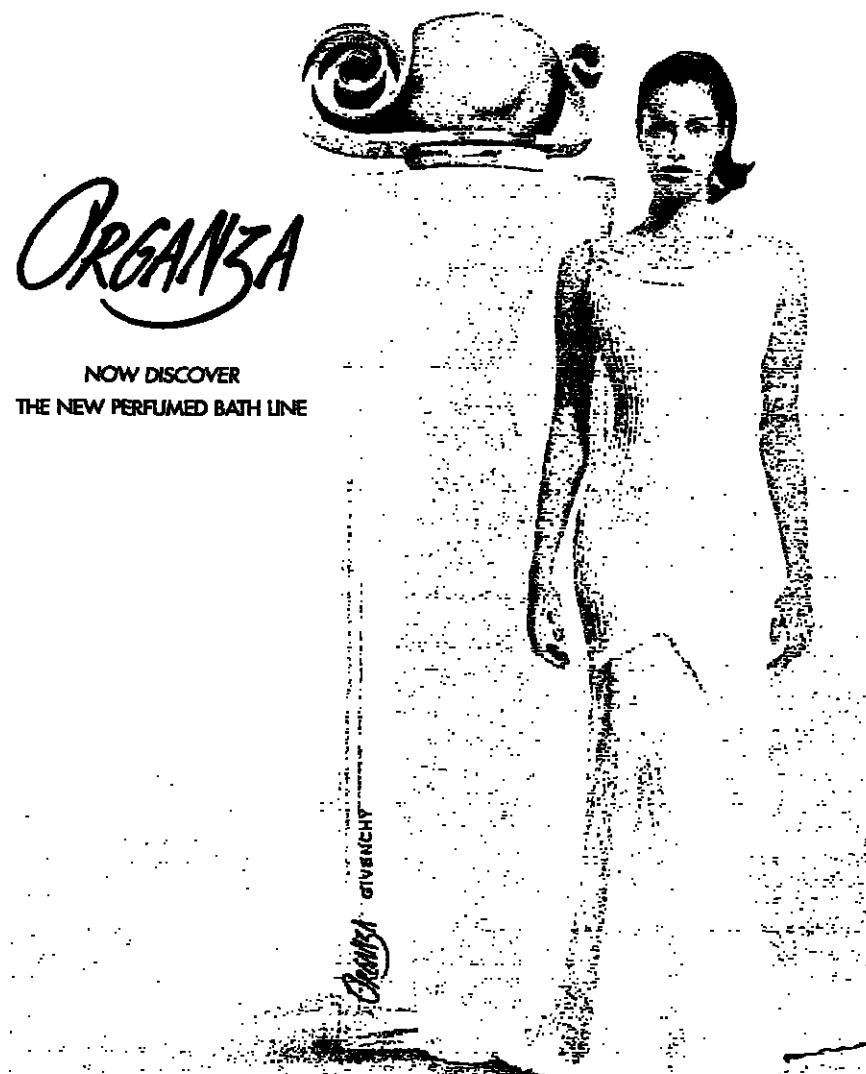
THERE seems to be little in common between Saddam Hussein and a woman who discussed her symptoms with me while we walked around a recent exhibition. But the two had much in common: both suffered pelvic problems as the result of spinal disease.

Spinal problems are the root cause of sciatic pain that runs down the back of the leg. Damage to the back — whether from a disc lesion, arthritis or spinal disease or injury — can cause loin and groin pain, which radiates out to the groin and often enters the inner thighs and genitalia. In 1960 Saddam damaged his spine just at the level that supplies the nerves to his penis, reportedly causing impotence and requiring continual treatment.

The Kensington art lover developed a rectal prolapse from damaged spinal discs. Her pelvic floor became so weak it no longer kept her internal organs in place. No doctor seemed to realise it was linked to her prolapse. A few weeks before she was due for surgery, her physiotherapist suggested the possible connection. The diagnosis was confirmed and a micro-dissection removed the protruding disc. The muscles so improved in her pelvic floor that her prolapse disappeared.

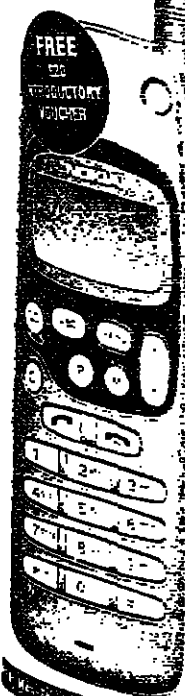
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Make them tell us why secrets sink without trace

Vital documents gather dust for decades, says Magnus Linklater

The British Government guards an awful secret. It has never explained its role in the Allies' decision after the Second World War to recruit one of the most vicious of Nazi war criminals, Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo security chief known as the Butcher of Lyons, worked undercover for the American Counter-Intelligence Corps for more than two years in Germany before being smuggled to South America.

It was a cynical episode in one of the murkier periods of postwar history, but while the Americans have been open in publishing information about it, the Foreign Office, which holds 32 documents about Britain's involvement with Barbie, has always refused to release them.

The British attitude to secrecy is more than an inconvenience to journalists. It is a gross disservice to history. This week, thanks to one tireless investigator, we have finally learnt the truth about a wartime event which led to the deaths of 104 British servicemen, killed when a Royal Navy cruiser collided with a submarine in the Firth of Forth.

When I say "wartime", I mean the First World War. The collision took place in January 1918, when a flotilla of British ships, heading out to sea at top speed, turned back to help two British subs which had collided in the dark. The flotilla ran straight into the path of the cruiser *Fearless* which smashed into submarine K17, slicing through its conning tower and sending her to the bottom. *Fearless* reversed, sending the other subs astern into confusion. Survivors were chopped to pieces by the screws of two escorting destroyers.

It has taken 79 years for the facts to come out. George Rosie, the journalist who dug out the papers, held under official "closure" at the Public Record Office in Kew, has long campaigned against the British cult of secrecy, and his work, both at the PRO and at the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh, has helped to ease some of the restrictions.

The results of his latest efforts form part of a series, *Secret Scotland*, to be seen on Scottish Television from this week. The rules are often absurd. Until a few years ago, there were still documents in Scotland held under a 100-year restriction rule. These included the Brechin carter's strike of 1901, and the disturbances at Peterhead Pier in 1898 when workers attempted to prevent the import of Swedish steel barrels.

Why the Scots should have been so sensitive about their own dark secrets is hard to determine, but it may stem from their sub-colonial status in the early part of this century — anything which smacked of civil unrest was regarded with alarm in London. Thereafter, bureaucratic inertia is the most likely explanation, though there is also a distinct

Scottish Office tendency to drag its feet when it comes to government secrecy.

The 1967 Act in England which relaxed the 50-year restriction on government papers to 30 years did not apply in Scotland. It has taken much digging by journalists such as Rosie to change the climate but it is still of the Arctic variety.

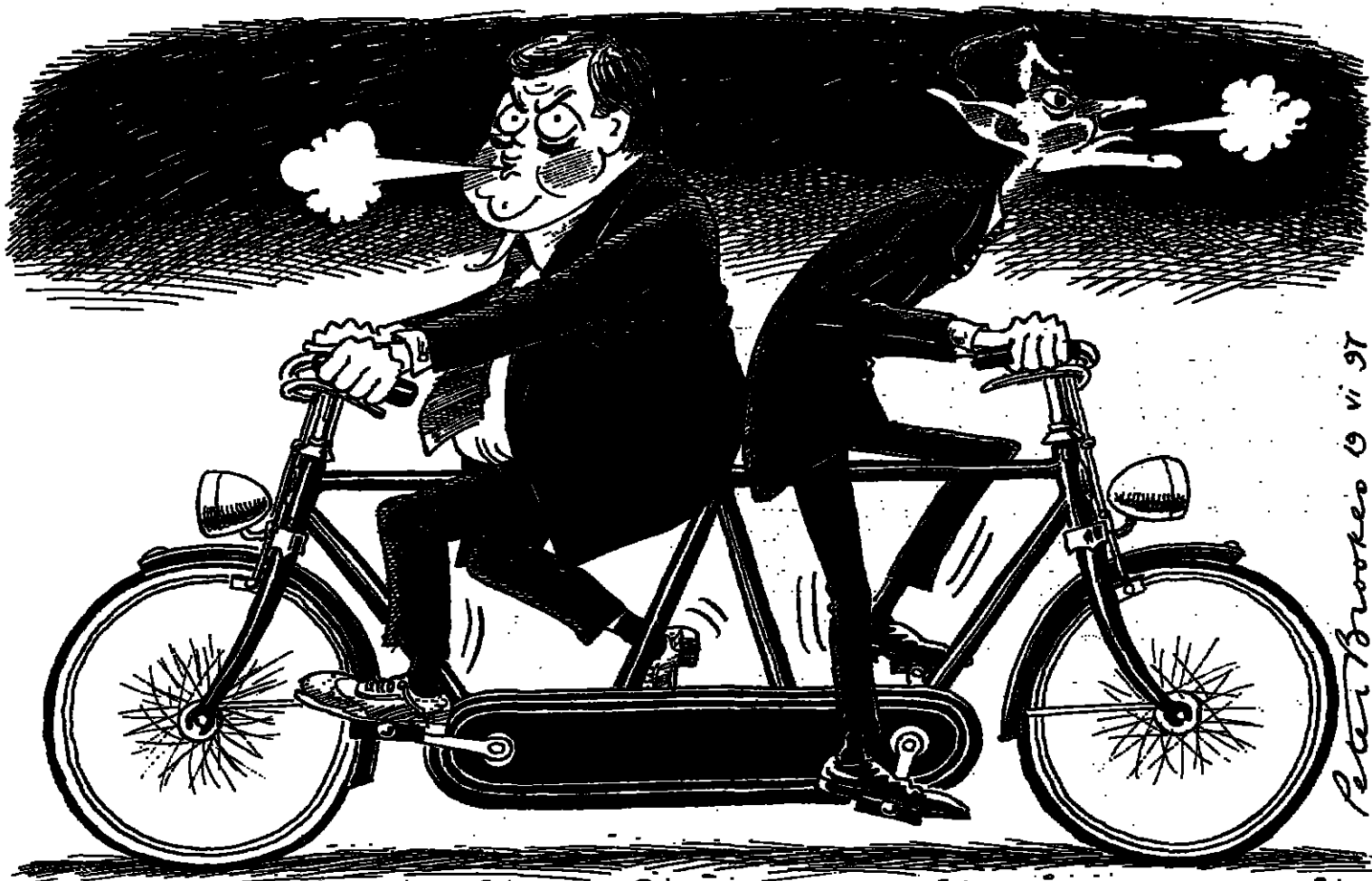
Scotland is merely following in a long tradition of obsessive British secrecy. Any investigative journalist or historian knows that the first step in finding out about our own intelligence history begins not in London, but in Washington. The author Tom Bower, who has chronicled the failure of the Allies to intervene in the Holocaust, has had to use American information to breach the walls of British reticence.

The fact that we now know about intelligence reports as early as 1946 that Jews were being systematically murdered owes nothing to the British Government. It was forced out only because the Americans had already issued details.

Even today, historians searching through the files at the PRO in Kew find constant references to documents that have been "retained" by government departments despite being legally obtainable under the 30-year rule. They have been weeded out on the tenuous grounds that they are still "sensitive"; by far the likeliest reason is that they are simply embarrassing. Worse, Bower believes that many documents, referred to at Kew but missing from their files, have simply been destroyed, leaving yawning gaps in our history.

Every incoming Government makes pledges about freedom of information — they are usually broken. This one appears to be no exception. Tony Blair assured us that a Labour Government would introduce a Freedom of Information Act. That promise was dropped even before it reached the White Paper stage. Given the prevailing atmosphere at No 10 these days, I fear we are unlikely to see its early return.

Perhaps, though, history can be reversed and Scotland can provide a lead. The intention is that a Scottish parliament should adopt more openness in its dealings with the people. A good way of demonstrating its credentials would be to announce in advance the introduction of a Scottish Freedom of Information Act, with the intention of making documents at the Scottish Record Office available to all serious researchers. The presumption should be that they are open for inspection as of right unless there are security reasons which dictate otherwise. The onus would be on the Government to demonstrate why they should not be released, rather than on the public to explain why they should be. That would be quite a revolution.



"IT WON'T BE A STYLISH MARRIAGE.... ON A BICYCLE MADE FOR TWO"

Redwood's reputation

Whoever leads the Tories, the dark-blue Incorruptible of the Right is now finished

We can say a sad farewell to John Redwood as a valid figure in Conservative policies. He was the Robespierre of the Right, the dark-blue Incorruptible, the figure whose political rectitude made the compromises of ordinary politicians seem shifty and contemptible. He had the courage to stand for the leadership against John Major; he said "never" to the single currency when lesser men would only say: "Not so far as I can foresee." His eyes gleamed with a vision; he had read the truth in the high hills and come down to tell the people.

In the Conservative leadership contest Redwood held the extreme Right position; after having been defeated, he announced yesterday his support for Kenneth Clarke, the candidate of the Centre Left. In the twinkling of an eye he has destroyed himself: it is as though Robespierre had gone to the Jacobin Club and announced that he had decided to transfer his support to King Louis XVI, adding for greater emphasis that he thought that Queen Marie Antoinette was an absolute sweetie.

One of two things can now follow, both disastrous for Redwood. It is still entirely possible that William Hague will be elected leader despite Redwood's support for Clarke. In that case, Redwood will be completely finished; he will not be wanted for the new voyage, even though Hague speaks politely about him. Although Hague's leadership should be unsuccessful, the Right will never trust Redwood again. By that time there would be new leaders, new candidates with undamaged reputations.

The other possibility is that Clarke will become leader, a possibility which Redwood has made significantly more likely. In that case Clarke will owe Redwood some gratitude, but he cannot afford to push gratitude too far. Clarke will have to come to terms with the real strength of the right wing of the party, which is now mainly to be found in the Hague camp. By supporting the Left, Redwood has separated himself from this solid Right, with its serious views. The support of the likes of Teresa Gorman is no substitute. The apparent deal to make Redwood Shadow Chancellor will disturb both wings of the party: it is embarrassing and undesirable. Lacking any real basis in the party, Redwood will be entirely dependent on Clarke's goodwill. That would be a humiliating position for an able man.

The issue of Europe may not define everyone else, but it certainly does define Redwood. He is, or was, a Eurosceptic in principle. If Kenneth Clarke is elected, the Conservative Party will take his moderate pro-European line for the rest of this Parliament, and will have to follow it at the next general election. There will be criticism of the details of Labour's European policy, but no general opposition. Clarke has always been a sincere Europeanist of the Ted Heath school. Those were his beliefs as a young man, they have been his beliefs through a long ministerial career, they are his beliefs now, they would be his beliefs as leader. He is a much more convinced Europeanist than Tony Blair, probably as committed as Gordon Brown.

Tony Blair is always reluctant to give the Tories an issue, that is an important part of his election strategy. If Hague is the Leader of the Opposition, Blair will not be willing to give him the European issue to exploit. If Clarke is leader, Blair will not have to worry about the opposition to his European policy. The Conservatives are only a minority in Parliament, but they can exert some pressure on the European debate. In supporting Clarke, Redwood has made it more likely that Britain will continue to drift towards closer integration in Europe. There is now about an even chance that Britain will be governed from Brussels in the next century. Clarke's election would undoubtedly make that somewhat more likely to happen; Redwood is risking a very great stake.

Apart from Redwood's support, there has been a rather human reaction towards Clarke. He is more experienced, a strong debater, a good-natured man for whom even his opponents feel considerable affection.

He is also older. If he does a good, professional job, the Conservatives probably will win back many seats at the next election; then perhaps they will go on to win in 2006 under another leader. By the probable time of the election after next Clarke would be in his late sixties, more than happy to retire. Many people will feel

comfortable with these possibilities; relatively few think that Tony Blair can be defeated at the next election. Kenneth Clarke, a friendly professional politician, would be attractive to them as a semi-temporary, semi-permanent leader.

There has also been some reaction away from Hague; he has made a few minor errors in his campaign, while Clarke's more mature and relaxed campaign has worked better. Hague is very young; he might be leader for a long time. If he were leader for as long as Margaret Thatcher's 15 years, he would still be only 51. He is a more driven and intense personality and would make changes which might be good for the party, but would be uncomfortable for some colleagues.

Where Clarke seems pleasantly relaxed, Hague seems disturbingly rigorous. Easygoing men usually prefer

easy-going leaders, and there is no shortage of easygoing backbenchers. It is like the trenches in the First World War. Private soldiers expected to live longer when they were led by a plump old major than when they were repeatedly taken over the top by a keen young subaltern. Hague would be keen, and, as in his leadership election, the relaxed style might be more popular.

The two men offer very different strategies. This difference is important, because general elections are more often decided by strategic positioning than by the immediate campaign. Blair won partly because he moved Labour to the centre ground, Kenneth Clarke is himself an instinctive centrist, in substantial agreement with much of new Labour's policy. He would be trying to occupy the same ground in public opinion as Tony Blair. If, which seems unlikely, the Government had to move back towards the old Labour policies, Clarke's moderate policy might work well for the Conservatives. If, as seems probable, Labour holds to its present centrist position, such a Conservative Opposition would lack any major principle on which to fight.

William Hague is committed to a more radical Tory approach. He

William Rees-Mogg

There would inevitably soon be protests at such an uninspiring leadership. On the first round of the contest, only 49 votes were cast for the pro-European left-of-centre candidate, Kenneth Clarke himself. One hundred and fifteen votes, well over twice as many, were cast for the three right-of-centre candidates and for John Redwood: all four were sceptical of the single currency. Now it seems very possible that the left-of-centre, Europeanist candidate is going to win.

Kenneth Clarke is a man of stature; he would be a very likeable and in some ways a popular leader. But it does not make sense to have a new leader who is really the candidate of the pre-Thatcher wing of the party, of Michael Heseltine and Ted Heath. That would be the second big step backwards. William Hague might or might not prove able to do the job; Margaret Thatcher is right to have endorsed him.



The Queen's headwear on Tuesday... and yesterday's selection

near David Tang. Guests included the Duchess of York and Princess Caroline of Monaco and her new lover, Prince Ernst of Hanover, who were sensitive after a recent issue of *Hell* magazine showed them canoodling. When the lovebirds slipped out of a back entrance to a barrage of flashbulbs they lost their composure and a punch-up between two paparazzi and Prince Ernst ensued.

Head start

ONE of the bookies at Royal Ascot today is providing a diversion from the turf by opening a book on the

would position the Conservative Party on the Centre Right, where both he and Peter Lilley fought the leadership campaign. Both on Europe and on the development of social and economic policy there would be clear differences between the major parties. Under Hague the newer and younger men in the Conservative Party would have the freedom to explore the policies for the next century. That is not going to happen under Kenneth Clarke, who is a pre-Thatcher rather than post-Thatcher politician, far more so than Tony Blair himself.

Clarke envies the Labour Party the centre ground. Hague regards the existing centre ground as already obsolete and would be trying to make the Conservative Party more contemporary than new Labour. The success of his leadership would entirely depend on the development of ideas.

In British politics there are already many new choices to be made, both for the Government and the Opposition. The Prime Minister has shown himself to be unafraid of making them. The Conservative Party suffers from an increasing reluctance to make these new choices. Margaret Thatcher was dismissed because she did not have the courage to make them; John Major was less capable of making them than she was; Kenneth Clarke is not by temperament a reformer at all — he would be less inclined to make new choices than John Major.

There would inevitably soon be protests at such an uninspiring leadership. On the first round of the contest, only 49 votes were cast for the pro-European left-of-centre candidate, Kenneth Clarke himself. One hundred and fifteen votes, well over twice as many, were cast for the three right-of-centre candidates and for John Redwood: all four were sceptical of the single currency. Now it seems very possible that the left-of-centre, Europeanist candidate is going to win.

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colour of the hat worn by the Queen for Ladies' Day. There are short odds (4-1 favourite) for a repeat of the pink she turned up in on Tuesday, while the green she wore yesterday comes in at 9-2. Royal blue is a good bet at 5-1; pale blue follows (11-2); then cream (6-1); lilac, purple or red (8-1); black or yellow (10-1); and polka dot (12-1). Paddy Power, the bookmaker says: "I'm no fashion expert but she always seems to wear pale colours." However, he is giving outside odds: leopardskin (25-1); tie-dye, or no hat (33-1); and a baseball cap (500-1).

P-H-S

Britain is no longer borderlin

Blair wins battle where Major loses insists Jack Straw

The Amsterdam summit opened a new chapter. Britain's relations with the rest of the world are no longer the outdated, self-posturing of the past, decade, a contrived ideology masked by political impotence. In its place, the Government under Tony Blair has pursued a pragmatic, hard-headed attitude to the European Union based on what is best for Britain.

The result is that after a century of uncertainty Britain now has a cast-iron, legally binding guarantee for the future maintenance of its border controls. This guarantee is founded on any outdated, imp view of Britain's place in Europe on a flagrant desire to frustrate European partners. It is instead, on Britain's distinctive geography and history.

Our position as an island acts as a natural constraint on where and people can enter the United Kingdom. In practice this can only be relatively few points — at sea, airports, and, over recent years, the Channel Tunnel access points. result, Britain's border controls and always have been, an effective means of regulating immigration well as combating terrorism, trafficking and other serious crime. In contrast, Europe's frontiers and borders: many are thousands of miles long and have often been determined not by geography but by accident of history and warfare.

This has particular consequences. For example, I once worked for weeks in Maastricht, the Dutch town famous for its treaty. There natural border there, and risk can travel into Luxembourg,gium, Germany and France far more easily than they can get to their capital, Amsterdam.

It is therefore understandable given the massive increase in EU travel over recent years that resulting difficulty of maintaining and policing land borders, that is a strong desire among many of our partners for the freer movement of people between their countries.

Our historical and geographical separation from the Continent led to a further difference in political traditions between Britain and other EU states. In mainland Europe, for example, there has long been heavy reliance on internal control through compulsory ID cards, resident and hotel checks.

So while we understand main Europe's need, it has been crucial for them to understand Britain's here that Tony Blair has succeeded where his predecessors failed.

In 1985 Margaret Thatcher signed the Single European Act, the treaty which led to the establishment of a single market. That treaty highly valued but failed to resolve the position of Britain in terms of border control, and, as a result, our basis for maintaining such common has been challenged ever since. proposed arrangements on free issues presented in Amsterdam week made it all the more important to put this matter beyond all doubt.

This week Tony Blair did just that. Through a protocol of the Amsterdam treaty, Britain now has the right to exercise "such controls on persons seeking to enter the United Kingdom as it may consider necessary for purposes".

By achieving this, Britain has not sought to prevent our partners from abolishing controls at their common frontiers pursuing a common immigration and asylum policy — they already started doing this any through the Schengen treaty, out the Union. But such arrangements: not fit the circumstances of United Kingdom and the new Treaty of Amsterdam recognises this.

The Schengen treaty is now brought within the structures of European Union. Apart from Britain the other EU states except Ireland already members or observers Schengen, but the United Kingdom has no intention of signing that treaty and is not required to do so.

There are many areas, however, where it is in Britain's interest to operate fully with our European partners. As crime, especially drugs trade, becomes more international, so must the fight against it. The United Kingdom has always played a leading part in EU operation against drugs, crime and terrorism. We shall continue to do so. Police, Customs and judicial operation will continue on an international basis. Europe powers to support national police forces will be strengthened, and Europe would not be able to give instructions to national forces or to charge of operations itself. Moreover thanks to amendments secured Amsterdam, the European Court of Justice have no authority to decide cases brought in United Kingdom courts on these issues.

In Amsterdam, Tony Blair has achieved real and positive results in the interests of Britain. They are achievements which could have been about only through our co-operative approach to Europe. For years Britain has been shouting from the sidelines but effecting nothing. No as a fully involved partner. Britain making a difference.

The author is the Home Secretary.

Last orders

THE AIR hangs heavy over the dining tables at Rules, in Covent Garden, which claims to be London's oldest restaurant and has long been the favoured haunt of politicians and the media. The establishment's head chef, Rory Kennedy, 37, has died from



"What's it to be, England win at Lord's, or Clarke for the leadership?"

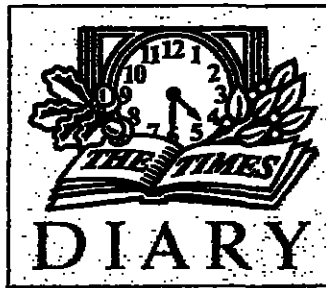
head injuries incurred during a recent fall down the stairs which led to the restaurant's kitchens.

Kennedy was a convivial and popular soul, who encouraged the intake of good food and wine. Staff at Rules, which offers fine game as well as excellent potted shrimps on its reassuringly English menu, are serving the dishes he created with a leaden heart.

"He was a lovely, rounded man," says John Mayhew, the owner of the restaurant, which was founded by Thomas Rule in 1798. "He fell, and nothing broke his fall."

Regulars at the joint include the new-found political partners Ken Clarke and John Redwood. Lord Tebbit is also to be seen tucking in at Rules, which has been rocked by Kennedy's sudden and tragic departure.

THE ROYAL Opera House's decision to cancel its new production of Verdi's *Macbeth* due to technical difficulties will have come as little surprise to David Bintley, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet. He says that he, too, suffered difficulties at the Royal



Opera recently because of an influx of freelance technicians who are not au fait with the backstage set-up.

Slim-doctor

THE conspicuous snap in the hips of Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio (Paperclips), can be put down to his visits to his new health club. He has recently signed up at Lambton Place, the prohibitively expensive club in Notting Hill Gate where anyone from John Cleese to Mariella Frostrup can be found sweating on the treadmill or fresh out of a shiatsu. The club is only two minutes' walk from his new house, though Mandelson, who regularly uses the pool, seems to prefer driving there in his smart

green government-issue Rover. He carries his trunks in a dinky mini hold-all. With the joining fee, Mandelson will be paying around £1,000 this year for the club's facilities — unless he gets a ministerial discount.

Oh lord

HAVING seen off Neil Hamilton, Martin Bell has now taken on the vicar in his local village. Three weeks after moving into a small cottage in Great Budworth, Cheshire, he has decided to boycott the church of St Mary and All Saints, claiming that its vicar, the Rev Derek Mills, is "an unrepentant Hamiltonian".

The new Independent MP for Tatton is fired up by an article Mills wrote in his parish magazine. "I was surprised by the suggestion in the article that the loser in the election was the winner, and that it likened the result in Tatton to the 'braying of asses,'" said Bell yesterday adding that he now intended to "worship elsewhere".

There were ugly scenes outside the Canteen restaurant, in London, on Tuesday evening where Michael Caine was hosting a party for the party Chinese entrepre-

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THURSDAY JUNE 19 1997

Britain is no longer borderless

Blair wins battle where Major lost

insists Jack Straw



PUSH-ME-PULL-YOU

Redwood has damaged himself, his principles and his party

The Conservatives throughout their history have been damned as "the stupid party". Seldom in their history can any of their number have deserved the title more. The decision by John Redwood and his closest supporters to endorse Kenneth Clarke as leader is an act of folly, malice and pique which diminishes them and their beliefs. In their aversion to William Hague, a man they fear may be another John Major, they will vote for Mr Clarke, another Ted Heath.

Those who have supported John Redwood hitherto should ask themselves this morning if they wish to see Margaret Thatcher and the principles she fought for sold so cheap. Can MPs such as Julian Lewis, Oliver Letwin, Edward Leigh, Howard Flight, Owen Paterson and Andrew Robathan, who have built their careers as Thatcherites, betray her now? They should ask if the British people should be denied the democratic choice of a leader genuinely sceptical about European integration. They should ask if they want their party to become a credible Opposition or a theatre of the absurd.

It is not just how the axis between Mr Clarke and Mr Redwood will look to the country and absurd is what it is. The two men have not produced a thoroughbred challenger capable of negotiating the steep decline to the next election but a push-me-pull-you which will invite ridicule long before it ever earns pity. When Mr Redwood challenged for the leadership in 1995 Mr Clarke argued that victory for Mr Redwood's ideas would mean "I don't think the Conservative Party could win an election in a thousand years." Mr Redwood derided Mr Clarke as a man "out on a limb" and, with icy English understatement, added that his presence in the Cabinet was "not helpful".

It is not just on Europe that they have agreed to bicker. Mr Clarke is against spending cuts, antipathetic to local authorities, the architect of the managerial reforms in the NHS and relaxed about Scottish devolution. Each of those positions is defensible, but all of them have been attacked, consistently, by Mr Redwood. Europe is,

however, the issue that divides them most, and divides them still. In this newspaper on May 27, Mr Redwood claimed: "We cannot sign up to a single word of the Amsterdam treaty. This is a federal treaty." Mr Clarke spent his campaign rubbishing those fears and went out of his way to take a more pro-European line.

Yesterday, however, the two men flourished their own peace treaty. Mr Redwood might as well have hoisted the white flag. This is his Munich. He is proud to have secured a free vote on the single currency but that does not create unity, only further argument as both sides struggle for supremacy. Worse, by allowing pro-integrationist Tory MPs to defy their supporters' wishes and vote to abolish the pound, it deprives the British people of a coherent party arguing for the maintenance of the nation's currency.

Mr Redwood argued in this contest that the only way to stop the Tory party becoming a "Balkan battlefield" was to reject the single currency. What price that prediction now? He may become Shadow Chancellor but, while Mr Redwood may have that ribbon to stick in his coat, he has lost something far more valuable: the authority won by his principled stand of the past.

Those of Mr Redwood's voters who have declared for Mr Clarke claim that they are supporting the "big-hitter". It is, however, they who will be clobbered, not Labour. As Home Secretary, Mr Clarke praised Tony Blair for having identical views to him on Europe. Since then, Mr Blair has grown more sceptical. As Chancellor he attacked Gordon Brown for agreeing with him. Mr Brown is now taking a tougher line on inflation and public spending.

As Tory leader, Mr Clarke would control the machinery of his party and steer it full steam astern. From candidate selection to policy formulation, there would be a purge of radicalism and fresh thinking. William Hague may have his failings but he is open to new currents and sensible about the need to arrive at an agreed line of opposition to a single currency and stick to it.

HALF THE STORY

Blair's victory at Amsterdam is not as ringing as he suggests

The leaders of the European Union returned exhausted to their respective capitals yesterday to tell their publics what victories for their countries they had won at Amsterdam. No two tales were alike — not surprisingly, since even the Dutch drafting team admits to a certain confusion about exactly what was finally agreed in the hectic final hours. Until an official text is available, the shape of the Treaty of Amsterdam will be as unclear as was that of the elephant which blind men were invited to describe by touching it. Their verdict depended on whether their exploring hands encountered trunk, belly or tail.

Tony Blair addressed the House of Commons with all the confidence of a man who alone sees the elephant clearly. He had some cause to be pleased. On defence, supported by Denmark and the EU neutrals, Britain secured the postponement — but not the abandonment — of EU plans to absorb the Western European Union and give itself a military arm. But Amsterdam was no undiluted triumph. He may come to regret giving the impression that this was the case.

Mr Blair claimed that Britain's entire EU agenda, from reform of the common agricultural policy to "a more effective common foreign and security policy" and enlargement, was "fully reflected at Amsterdam". That was a considerable overstatement.

On trade, which he prudently omitted to mention and which was one of the few areas in which Britain rightly sought an extension of the Commission's powers, the Government went down to defeat at the hands of France and Italy. On enlargement to the East, a key British objective, Mr Blair's statement that "the treaty prepares the institutions of the Union for enlargement" does not stand up. He would have been far wiser to complain loudly that the complete deadlock on this at Amsterdam has put a

brake on the process. Equally, there is no treaty basis for Mr Blair's assertion that when enlargement occurs, Britain will have greater weight in the EU voting system.

Still more serious is the rosy picture he painted of the outcome in the area where the treaty most clearly breaks new ground for European integration. This is the article on "flexibility", allowing groups of states to embark on fresh forms of co-operation that others do not want to join. The problem is not with the principle: this Government, like the last, rightly accepts that in a larger EU, this arrangement will be needed. But the British position has been that, to prevent a hard core developing to the detriment of others and because Community institutions financed by all would be used, each such initiative must be "open to all, agreed by all".

The Dutch draft called instead for decisions by qualified majority, and that is what the Treaty of Amsterdam says. Mr Blair's veto should have been ready. He did not use it. When he told the House that "we secured a veto over flexibility arrangements", he referred to a second-best compromise, whereby an outvoted dissenting state can invoke "vital national interest" and take the matter to the European Council. British officials have abruptly begun to say that flexibility was devised as a way to outflank the Tory Eurosceptics and that Labour's new positive attitude has "taken the political steam out of this issue". But they admit that new EU initiatives will now be far harder to block.

If this does not worry Mr Blair, it should. This is a powerful new enabling clause for Europe's integrationists. The treaty should be ratified by Parliament only if the Prime Minister can convince his critics that Britain's veto is as solid as it would have been had John Major been at Amsterdam.

AMERICAN INDIANS

Literary New York salutes the subcontinent

It would be tempting to say that we read them here first. Salman Rushdie and Vikram Seth. Amit Chaudhuri and Amitav Ghosh. All began their literary odysseys in Britain. So did R. K. Narayan before them, and V. S. Naipaul, to say nothing of Nirad Chaudhuri, as old as the century, and twice as wise.

America is reading them now. As our New York correspondent reports today, *The New Yorker* has this week published an issue dedicated entirely to fiction writing from India. The magazine, the flagship of American letters, has chosen sagely. In the ingenious English of the subcontinent, it is intriguing indeed to observe America's discovery of India's English. India, it might be argued, is now doing to English what America once did. The language's new Indian frontier — the Wild East, if you like — is the place where English has found its latest ferment. The United States, which 200 years ago began to refashion the language too, must surely see a part of its past mirrored in India's present.

India's presence has grown greatly in America. Not only are her books on sale there, but her people too have migrated to

the New World in numbers, 500 years after Columbus expected to meet them there. He did not encounter true Indians, of course, but were he somehow to return today, he would most likely ride in a taxi driven by a turbaned Sikh, buy a roadside bagel from someone from Bombay, have his accounts done by a man from Madras, or be treated by a doctor from Delhi.

Our interest in this process is easy to understand. Britain has two truly "special" relationships. The first, with America, is most talked about, and has acquired a significance that is as much political as it is cultural. The second, played at a lower volume, is the one with India. Yet until now, America and India have remained too aloof from each other, contriving to overlook their many common features. Of those, the English language is the most powerful.

India's writers should at last enable America to "crack" the subcontinent, just as American popular culture has made inroads into modern India. In their different ways, both Hollywood and Salman Rushdie show why English is in such rude good health. They show, too, why the language will continue to be the most widely spoken in the world for many, many years to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Last lap of Tory leadership race

From Mr Peter Willsher
Sir, Although I expect William Hague to win the Tory leadership election, I believe that it will be in the long-term best interests of the party if they elect Kenneth Clarke.

The chances of Labour being defeated at the next general election are minimal, given the size of their majority. Kenneth Clarke is the best man to lose it, leaving the Tories to hold a further leadership election in order to bring in someone untainted by the loss. Such a person would be from a younger generation, conceivably a more mature Mr Hague, with a good chance of defeating a tiring Labour Party, led by a much diminished Tony Blair, in say 2006.

In the meantime, the Tories will benefit from Kenneth Clarke's wide experience and pugnacious leadership with the single currency being only a side issue, bearing in mind that the Conservatives can have no measurable influence on whatever decision is taken by the Labour Government in two successive terms of office.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WILLISHER,
Brook Farm,
Beyton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
01460.1603@compuserve.com
June 18.

From Mr Richard Saxby-Soffe
Sir, The malaise from which the Conservative Party has suffered since taking on John Major as leader will only be perpetuated if he is replaced by Kenneth Clarke, who is identified with contributing substantially to that malaise. The disaffected Tory voter would continue to feel disenfranchised.

It is futile to seek to occupy the centre ground. That is now solidly occupied by new Labour. The only hope lies in a clear fresh start with William Hague and his right-of-centre principles.

The mind boggles at the party's lack of sensitivity. There were two devastating local election defeats, and a leadership challenge culminating in the general election landslide, and still the point has not been taken by many that we don't want John Major or any of his cronies.

It is sad indeed that John Redwood, the most deserving candidate, has been eliminated; but we should be grateful that William Hague can save the day.

Yours faithfully,
R. SAXBY-SOFFE,
Long Acre, Long Garden Walk,
Farnham, Surrey.
June 18.

From Mrs Stephanie Webster
Sir, In its last leadership election, the Tory party turned its back on a giant (Michael Heseltine) and chose a pygmy (John Major). This time it threatened to do the same by choosing non-entity William Hague over the towering character and intellect of Ken Clarke.

Now there seems to be a chance that common sense will prevail. If we can get Mr Clarke as leader it will almost have been worth losing the general election.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHANIE WEBSTER,
Wych Elm House,
Ashwood Road, Woking, Surrey.
June 17.

From Mr W. G. McPherson
Sir, There may not seem much in common between buying a Blackface ram and the choosing of the leader of a political party, but the principle is the same.

An old and experienced flockmaster gave me this advice:
Never buy a young ram for his looks. You don't know if he'll be any use, and you don't know if he'll stand the winter storms. Buy an older beast, one that has taken all that a couple of winters could throw at him and has come out vigorous and sound in wind and limb.

You know what you have with him.

I am, Sir,
Yours respectfully,
W. G. MCPHERSON,
37 Cranley Street,
Hunty, Aberdeenshire.
June 18.

Boys will be boys

From Mrs Sara Hall
Sir, Nigel Hawkes's report ("Why boys have to learn what comes naturally to girls", June 12) explains rather more scientifically exactly what I have been saying for years, namely that boys appear to be born completely empty-headed, having to be taught almost everything about what is acceptable behaviour in society. Such behaviour, of course, they are perfectly capable of learning.

My views are not based on any genetic research, merely long-term observation of my fellow human beings.

I must have been using my intuition.

Yours sincerely,
S. HALL,
8 Belmont Road,
St Peter Port, Guernsey, CI.
June 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Right of Prince of Wales to speak on state education

From Mr Kenneth P. Armitage
Sir, Libby Purves, who attacks Prince Charles's views on the state education system ("A period of silence, Sir", June 17), may find that the Prince's words strike a chord with many ordinary people as well as those in business and commerce.

I feel certain that Prince Charles is already well briefed on the general condition of many state schools and probably understands that the failure of the system can be attributed, in part, to poverty, family break-up, crumbling buildings, the sale of school playing fields and, to a degree, ignorance. But the teaching profession must accept its share of the blame for the lack of discipline in schools and for the numerous trendy teaching methods which may have undermined organisation, structure and the learning process.

The onus for learning rests not only with individuals but with those whose job it is to impart knowledge and understanding. All academic organisations have an end-product — the young person or adult attaining the desired level of achievement and competence which allows them to proceed with a chosen career path and a greater understanding of life and work.

If a company fails it is the fault, primarily, of the board and senior management for not appreciating the demands of the market place. So, too, in academia, the student is not the only customer. So are parents, industry, business and commerce and the nation.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH P. ARMITAGE,
6 Deben Valley Drive,
Kesgrave, Suffolk.
June 17.

From Mrs John Rose
Sir, I heartily endorse the comments by Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the teachers' union, about the effect

on education of the breakdown in family life (report, June 16).

Recently I completed 11 years as a parent governor in my children's comprehensive school. I also teach part-time. Because I was free during the day I was usually the first choice of governor to sit on exclusion panels. In all those years, not one of the pupils whom I saw considered for permanent exclusion lived in a family with both his (occasionally her) birth parents.

Before permanent exclusion is considered pupils have consumed enormous amounts of teachers' time and emotional energy and have usually caused severe disruption to the education of other pupils.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA ROSE,
2 Forest Hill Road,
Workshop, Nottinghamshire.
100657.147@compuserve.com

From Mrs C. H. E. Blofeld
Sir, After steaming with indignation since I heard the pronouncements of the schoolmasters' union man, I have to ask what a failed marriage has to do with recognising the dismal state of education in some schools. If that man represents the views of teachers in our schools — something that must be assumed — it is no wonder pupils leave ill-equipped to think logically (and/or spell correctly).

I am delighted that the media has given his utterance such publicity, thereby showing him up and confirming every single word Prince Charles had to say on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTIE BLOFELD,
16 Brook Road South,
Brentford, Middlesex.
avblofeld@aol.com

From Mrs Jennifer Miller
Sir, It was obvious from the Dimpleby interview of 1994 that the Prince of

Wales knew he would not be able to speak out as he does now when he became King; but it is hard to see why he should be altogether silent on a matter of great national importance when all political parties are concerned for education.

The Prince is anxious that our young people should do well in an increasingly competitive world, and his latest words have all the force of sincerity. The faults of our education system are constantly being brought home to him because of all his work for the disadvantaged through the Prince's Trust, and in the course of his public duties he travels exceptionally widely.

He has not in fact enjoyed a very cloistered upbringing; schooldays at Gordonstoun were tough, and he also went to an Australian grammar school. Subsequently, he has trained as a commando, piloted helicopters, driven tanks and made parachute jumps.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER MILLER,
2 Heathview Gardens,
Putney, SW15.
June 17.

From Mr Ken Jones
Sir, We now have proof that our general standards in education are in decline.

The Prince of Wales, in his BBC interview with Sir David Frost on June 15, made a reasoned and unemotional critique of some aspects of teaching today. In response, Mr de Gruchy of the teachers' union is quoted in today's paper as making an inflammatory, personal attack on the Prince. QED.

Yours sincerely,
KEN JONES,
57 High Street,
Wyke Regis, Dorset.
kjhnews@clara.net
June 16.

Impasse at Stonehenge

From the Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission
Sir, I write to applaud your admirable leading article of June 14, "Squaring the stone circle", with its positive approach to improving the setting of Stonehenge, and to ask the letters today from Lord Montagu de Beaulieu and Professor Maxwell Hutchinson commenting on the rejection by the Millennium Commission of the scheme put forward by English Heritage.

Over the years, the Royal Fine Art Commission has strongly supported improved access to Stonehenge and the provision of adequate facilities for visitors, and in February 1994 we convened a meeting at our headquarters of all the principal parties — the Department of Transport, English Heritage, the National Trust and others — which surprisingly identified a practical way forward. Unfortunately,

nately, due to a misguided obsession with building a tunnel which was neither aesthetically pleasing nor economically viable, no further progress was made.

You report (June 14) that the present chairman of English Heritage is blaming the Millennium Commission and its chairman, Mr Chris Smith, for the impasse. That is unjustified. Responsibility for lack of progress lies elsewhere. Constant changes of strategies, plans and proposals have led to general confusion.

The important thing now is to attempt to make up for the lost time and the mistakes of the past. If the Royal Fine Art Commission can do anything to assist in making progress we would be most happy to do so.

Yours faithfully,
ST JOHN DE FAWSLEY,
Chairman,
The Royal Fine Art Commission,
7 St James's Square, SW1.
June 18.

Electoral reform

From Mr Barrie Lane
Sir, The electoral system does need to be significantly reformed, but that it is not high on the Government's list of priorities should be of no surprise to Professors Iain McLean and R. L. Johnston (letter, June 18). After all, it was on this shambles that the present Government was elected and it would not surprise me if the Conservative Party were soon to lead the field in arguing for electoral reform, just as the Labour Party did when it was in Opposition.

Having been an administrator of elections and electoral registration for more years than I care to remember, the attitude that there are more important questions to deal with than the way we are governed is a constant one with each new government. There are few votes in electoral reform. But with Bills in preparation for a referendum for a strategic authority in London and referendums in Scotland and Wales, now must be the best opportunity to gain parliamentary time to amend legislation and improve the worst excesses of our system. Will this Government take up the challenge?

Yours faithfully,
BARRIE LANE,
(Honorary Treasurer,
Inner London Branch, Association of Electoral Administrators),
80 Park Avenue,
Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.
June 18.

DIY justice

From Mr A. F. Laing
Sir, In 1986 I investigated representation at industrial tribunals as part of my postgraduate dissertation at Sheffield University ("DIY cases can fall apart", Law, June 10).

What was very clear was that tribunal chairmen, and to a lesser extent lay members, actively assisted lay representatives, whether applicant or respondent, to ensure that they did not suffer an injustice as a result of their lack of legal training. Indeed, they have an obligation to do so.

The reason for the higher success rate of legally represented parties at industrial tribunals appears to be to lie much more with lawyers being either more competent in selecting cases which were likely to succeed or in fending off those likely to fail. As a trade union representative remarked: "We feel obliged to take on cases for our members even if we suspect they have no chance of winning."

Despite the best efforts of the chairmen, some applicants seem determined to fail. I remember the applicant who protested that he was unfairly dismissed for persistent absenteeism, and without explanation failed to reappear after the lunch adjournment.

Yours etc,
A. F. LAING,
Alders, 34 Whirlow Lane,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
June 11.

Rights of disabled

From the Director of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (Radar)
Sir, There is no group of people more eager to prevent non-disabled people from claiming disability benefits than those who are disabled.

It is important, however, for the debate to be led by facts and not generalisations. Your leading article suggesting reforms to combat welfare dependency ("New welfare", June 10; letter, June 18) included the statement "... physical disabilities should not be automatic disqualification for work." They aren't and never have been.

Disability organisations such as Radar fought for the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 because disabled people who wanted and sought work were far too often rejected by employ-

ers even though they were qualified for the jobs in question. If disabled people are denied the opportunity to work then the social security system needs to support them. However, there is an alternative.

The Disability Discrimination Act should be amended to create a commission to support disabled people who have, or believe they have, experienced discrimination in the labour market.

When prejudice and discrimination are replaced by employment opportunities there will be no shortage of disabled people who will be happy to surrender social security for a salary.

Yours faithfully,
BERT MASSIE,
Director, Radar,
12 City Forum,
250 City Road, EC1.
June 11.

Irish potato famine

From Dr A. M. Parsons
Sir, With the benefit of hindsight it is possible to blame the British Government for not doing more to alleviate the Irish potato famine (letter, June 13; see also letter, June 5) but this was not obvious at the time. The idea that a fungus could be the cause and not merely a consequence of the disease was quite new and it took the efforts of a Northamptonshire clergyman, the Reverend M. J. Berkeley, to show that this was the case. Until then it was supposed that a combination of bad luck and bad weather was the cause of the disaster.

There was some truth in the economic theories of Sir Charles Trevelyan and others but this was hardly the time and place to apply them. Ultimately it had to be admitted that the population had outrun the food supply, as the Reverend Thomas Malthus had predicted. Emigration, forced or otherwise, was the only permanent answer available.

Sir Robert Peel did his best. He repealed the Corn Laws, much against his inner convictions, and he organised the import of maize from America. It was not popular, it was called Peel's brimstone, but it saved many lives. The American growers had, of course, to be paid at market prices for their produce.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. PARSONS,
14 Woodlands,
St Neots, Cambridgeshire.
June 13.

Clergyman's crib

From Mr Peter Hollindale
Sir, Speculation that the BBC might discontinue the Radio 4 *Sunday* programme (report, June 13) must dismay clergy in the Church of England, whose workload would be markedly increased by its loss.

I have listened to this programme on many occasions, only to find large portions of it retransmitted from the pulpit two hours later.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HOLLINDALE,
6 Grange Garth, Fulford Road, York.
June 13.

Thoughtful paws

From Mr M. G. Henley
Sir, Our squirrel can hang vertically downwards from the gutter by her back feet in order to pull up and dislodge the bird feeder (letters, June 12, 18). We have now allocated one for her own use.

Yours faithfully,
M. G. HENLEY,
8 Ham Close,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
June 18.

Coming round again
From Mr Piers Eley
Sir, Was Turner so called, I wonder, because he knew that every year, at about this time, he would be made to turn in his grave (report and article, June 18)?

Yours sincerely,
PIERS ELEY,
35 Montague Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
June 18.



His Royal Highness, Royal Fellow, this afternoon attended the Royal Society's New Frontiers in Science exhibition at Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.



Mrs Paul Welch, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Juliet, younger daughter of Mr John Hartley Rice, of Camberley, Surrey, and of Mrs Penny Perrin, of Godstone, Surrey.

Mrs Brian Wood, of Thurnham, Lancaster, and Mary Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Knight, of St Brides Major, Vale of Glamorgan.

Marriages

Mr N.J.S. White and Signorina C.V. Cattagione
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 11, in the Basilica di St Stefano Roncola, Rome, Italy, of Mr Nicholas White, eldest son of Mr Adrian and the Hon Mrs White, of Farnborough, Oxfordshire, to Signorina Cristina Cattagione, younger daughter of Dottore Gaetano Cattagione and Signora Francesca Comello Cattagione, of Rome. Mgr Gerard McKay officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her mother, was attended by Valentina Pasquale. Chiara Sommino and Madhuca Gavaudon. Mr Richard Wingfield was best man.

A reception was held at Palazzo Taverna.

Mr D.I. Swainston and Mrs J. Carey Teichman
The marriage took place on Thursday, June 12, in Hampton, London NW3, of Mr David Imrie Swainston, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs Harry Imrie Swainston, of Highgate, London NE, to Mrs Jan Carey Teichman, younger daughter of the late Mr and Mrs

Middle Temple

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Middle Temple:

Mr A. Barker, QC, Mr D.M. Harris, QC, Mr J.C. Phillips, QC.

Irish Council of Christians and Jews

Sir Sigmund Sternberg was the speaker at the AGM of the Irish Council of Christians and Jews held in Dublin yesterday. Afterwards, he held talks with the Imam at the Mosque in Clonskeagh.

Appointment

Mr Jeffrey James is to be British High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya in succession to Mr Simon Hermans who has retired from the Diplomatic Service.

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هذه ايامنا الاولى

JAMES LEE BYARS

The Bishop of Whitchy said that the vitally important time of sex teaching was not only the age of puberty. There was an opportunity when the little ones began to ask questions and wonder "where baby came from." That was the time to tell the story of life in a perfectly simple way, instead of putting children off with silly answers about something coming down the chimney. And the doctor arriving with a bag.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JUNE 19 1997

City braced for further rate increase

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE CITY is convinced there will be a further rise in interest rates next month, after new data showed high street spending surging to its highest level since 1988.

Retail sales volumes in May rose by an annual rate of 5.3 per cent, the largest increase since November 1988. The less volatile quarterly figures also showed volumes rising at their fastest since July 1988.

Economists said the Bank of England would almost certainly make another rate rise, to add to the two quarter-point rises made over the last two months, unless Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, acted to curb consumer spending with tax rises in the Budget.

The unexpectedly strong retail sales figures, coupled with continuing concern over corporate tax changes in the Budget and another decline on Wall Street, sent the stock market lower for the third consecutive day.

The FTSE 100 closed 25.2 points down at 4,657.0 - 125 below the record closing high set last Friday. The pound fell from DM2.8388 to DM2.8311 and sterling's trade-weighted index closed down 0.2 at 100.0 because of profit taking.

Warm weather and post-election consumer confidence were the main driving force behind the surge in high street sales. All sectors reported gains, although growth was most marked in households goods, where sales rose by 8.2 per cent from May last year, and clothing and footwear sales, which increased at an annual rate of 8.6 per cent.

But the retail sales deflator,

which provides a guide to the level of price inflation on the high street, rose only 0.6 per cent, suggesting that retailers are still finding it difficult to pass on price increases.

Economists gave warning that the retail sales figures contained only a small measure of extra spending from building society windfalls and that growth is set to remain

Pension benefits 'face tax threat'

HALF of Britain's final salary pension funds could be pushed into deficit if the Government scrapped the tax credit on dividend income, according to Paul Greenwood, research actuary at William M. Mercer (Paul Durman writes). He said cancellation, strongly rumoured to be a key proposal of Gordon Brown's first Budget next month, would weaken the strength of pension schemes by 15 or 20 per cent. Companies would either have to increase contributions, or seek to reduce future benefits. *Tempus*, page 30

strong in the coming months. Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, said the pressure would now be on Mr Brown to hit consumers with a "windfall tax". But Richard Jeffrey, UK economist at Charterhouse, said that any tax moves in the Budget were likely to be insufficient to halt consumer spending growth. He forecast that the Bank is

set on an "aggressive course of action", resulting in rates rising as high as 8 per cent by the end of the year. The money market expects rates to rise only to about 7 per cent by the end of the year.

The minutes of the May 6 monetary meeting, the last to be published under the old monetary policy system, show that Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, advised the Chancellor to make only a quarter-point rise in rates because he was concerned a half-point rise would provoke "an exaggerated market reaction".

The meeting took place on the same day that Mr Brown announced his plan to give operational independence to the Bank of England.

Mr George said that although he ultimately favoured a half-point rise, he felt it would be better to defer part until the following month. The Bank would also then be able to take into account subsequent movements in sterling and listen to the advice of the new members of the Bank of England monetary policy committee.

The Chancellor admitted that he was worried that if inflation was allowed to accelerate, "stronger remedial action would be necessary later". Mr Brown accepted the Bank's advice to raise rates by a quarter point. The monetary policy committee took the opportunity to increase rates by another quarter point to 6.5 per cent after its inaugural meeting earlier this month.

Commentary, page 29



Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, claimed a victory, while Richard Giordano, chairman of BG, put on a brave face

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAS bills are to be cut by £29 a year after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission endorsed and toughened pricing plans for the country's pipeline network in a move that could lead to thousands of job losses.

The decision was claimed by Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, as a vindication of her formula which was bitterly opposed by British Gas. But the adjudication gave a little ground to BG, the demerged and renamed British Gas which covers the Transco pipeline operation, by allowing the company more operating

MMC endorses and toughens gas price curbs

and capital expenditure and fewer demands on how it spends its money.

The pricing controls apply to how BG delivers gas from the shore to the home or factory. Centrica, the demerged supply side of British Gas, is obliged to pass on the cost reductions through



Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, claimed a victory, while Richard Giordano, chairman of BG, put on a brave face

licence obligations. Companies vying for business against BG in areas where competition has been started are expected to pass on the reductions to keep prices low. The price cuts will start to operate in October and then feed into bills. Because the curbs will be progressive over

five years the cut in an average annual gas bill of £325 will be £54 at the end of that period.

The MMC also reduced the asset value of BG. Ofgas had proposed a value of £12.4 billion, while the MMC declared a £11.6 billion value.

BG said the MMC's decision was tough but workable. The decision was welcomed by rival gas suppliers and the Gas Consumers Council. But one of the main unions representing gas workers condemned the ruling, saying it could affect investment and jobs.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4657.0	(-25.2)
Yield	3.52%	
FTSE All share	2213.78	(-11.54)
Nikkei	20497.85	(-85.81)
New York		
Dow Jones	7710.11	(-50.67)
S&P Composite	188.19	(-4.29)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Yield	6.72%	(6.72%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Libor long	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)
Future (Sep)		

STERLING

New York		
\$	1.6390	(1.6397)
London		
£	1.6397	(1.6390)
DM	2.8317	(2.8398)
FF	6.5525	(6.5900)
FF	1.4470	(1.4450)
Yen	185.59	(185.77)
£ Index	100.0	(100.2)
\$ Index	100.0	(100.2)

TOKYO CLOSE YEN 113.51

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$17.95	(\$18.20)
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GOLD

London close	\$340.85	(\$342.15)
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* denotes midday trading price

Inefficiency
Banks, building societies and insurance companies were accused of charging customers an extra £3 billion a year because of their administrative inefficiencies and out-of-date technology. *Page 28*

Italian bid
A UK investment company will discover tomorrow whether its audacious bid to become the first foreign owner of a top Italian football club has been successful. *Page 32*

New SIB's cost could reach £20m

By ROBERT MILLER

THE cost of creating a new "Super SIB" to police the City and protect investors could cost £20 million.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, yesterday confirmed that McKinsey, the US management consultant, and Kinsley Lord, part of the Towers Perrin Group, have been appointed as consultants to a new SIB project team.

Further consultants are expected to be retained to advise on property and information technology. Kinsley Lord's brief is to study the staffing levels and pay and conditions for the 1,500 combined staff at the beefed-up watchdog.

The £20 million bill will include finding a single office and extracting the regulators from their existing leases, installing new computer equipment and the drawing up of a new Financial Services Act.

City Diary, page 31

UK may face legal action on tendering agreements

By JASON NISSE

THE Treasury and the European Commission are on a collision course over the latter's threat to take legal action against framework agreements, the rules that cover tendering for an estimated £10 billion of government and quasi-government contracts.

The Commission wrote to the Treasury last month saying the way most government departments, local authorities and other bodies, such as health service trusts, contract out services breaches the Services Directive, which came into effect in July 1993.

Brussels is threatening to take the UK Government to the European Court of Justice unless it drops the use of framework agreements. In these, government bodies strike deals, typically lasting for three years, with a panel of anything up to 20 contractors that are permitted to bid for contracts which would fall under the agreement. Typical-

ly these would have a value of less than £1 million.

Although the agreements are advertised in the *European Journal* and anyone can bid to be put on the panel, the Commission says they are anti-competitive and that all contracts worth more than £108,677 should go to tender.

The Treasury is taking legal advice and will reply next month. *Computer Weekly* claims the Commission told the Treasury informally of its action in January.

Contractors argue that getting rid of the agreements would bring the process of contracting to a standstill.

Ian Whitmore, head of government practice at Andersen Consulting, said: "If you had to go to the *European Journal* for every piece of government business the Government would not be able to procure anything because of the time taken and the cost." At the same time,

Karel Van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, admitted yesterday that the Commission was struggling to cope with the growing number of complex merger and acquisition investigations.

He said the Commission faced "a very serious problem" and blamed a lack of resources in the competition directorate. He pointed to the pressures of assessing a rising number of transport mergers, including the BA/American Airlines tie-up, and the extra caseload resulting from the expansion of the EU.

The backlog of competition cases grew to 1,200 last year from less than 1,000 in 1995, the Commission's annual report on competition policy says. The report predicted about 150 merger and acquisition deals would be filed this year, including the Guinness/GrandMet merger, compared with 125 last year.

TV groups in talks for BDB stake

By ERIC REGULY

CARLTON and Granada are negotiating to buy BSKyB's stake in British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), believing the satellite broadcaster's presence in the group could jeopardise its chances of winning a digital-TV licence.

BDB is owned equally by Carlton, Granada and BSKyB. The latter is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. BDB plans to launch dozens of digital terrestrial TV channels next year if it is awarded a broadcasting licence this summer by the Independent Television Commission.

Concerns about BSKyB's role in BDB followed a report that the ITC could rule BDB out of the contest if BSKyB remains a shareholder. Part of the ITC's mandate is to examine competition issues. BSKyB is the dominant satellite broadcaster and Carlton and Granada dominate ITV. BSKyB shares fell 45p to 52 1/2p.

Nationwide calls a halt to new accounts

By ANNE ASHWORTH



Hardern: £1,000 for every saver

THE Nationwide Building Society has announced that it will no longer be opening savings accounts for new customers. The society, beset by speculators, has experienced huge inflows of cash in the past fortnight. It is likely that new customers will remain banned until after the society's annual meeting on July 24.

Carpenters have been attracted to the Nationwide by speculation that it would be the next society to convert into a bank, despite its often-repeated commitment to mutualism. In recent days account opening has been running at five times the normal rate. Last week it was revealed that

Goldman Sachs, the merchant bankers who are working on secret defence plans for the society, had put a £7 billion valuation on the Nationwide.

Meanwhile a band of dissident savers, led by Michael Hardern, a freelance butler, is attempting to gain seats on the Nationwide board to force the society to convert. Mr Hardern has promised that savers will get £1,000 apiece if his ambitions are achieved. Members will vote on the dissidents' bid for directorships at the agm.

This morning Mr Hardern will elaborate on his plans. Last night he welcomed the move to bar new customers: "Every new membership cuts the size of the windfalls to be distributed to the existing members."

Earlier this week Nationwide tried to stem the tide of cash by raising the minimum investment. Aspiring customers have also been forced to make appointments to open accounts, some six weeks hence. These will be honoured. Account application forms will also be accepted, as long as they are received by close of business on June 25.

The Nationwide said that it was barring new customers to preserve the standard of service for its existing clientele. However, observers believe that the Nationwide wishes also to limit the number of speculators, as they would be likely to support Mr Hardern. Only those who joined the society before April will be entitled to vote at the annual meeting.

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Fund managers fear big stock market fall

By PAUL DURMAN

AS THE FTSE 100 index of Britain's biggest companies fell for the third consecutive day yesterday, leading fund managers increasingly fear the stock market is heading for its first big fall since Labour won power.

Fund managers believe dividend tax changes rumoured to be in next month's Budget could wipe 5 or 10 per cent from the value of the UK market. The FTSE 100 has already fallen more than 25 per cent from last Friday's close of 4,783.1, ending yesterday at 4,657. It stood at 4,445 when Labour

took power in May. The suggested tax changes will prevent pension funds and charities from claiming the 20 per cent credit they currently receive on dividend payments. This would effectively reduce the return pension funds can earn on UK shares, and would prompt them to switch their money into fixed-interest securities or invest overseas.

One firm, a leading manager of unit trust and personal equity plan money, said: "This is bad news for British savers and bad news for British industry."

However, other firms take the view

that a market correction is overdue. Stan Pearson at Scottish Widows said: "We expect a correction in the US and the UK [which] is merely living off Wall Street. The [tax] situation is just a catalyst that helps that along."

He believes that the City's forecast for the growth in company profits will have to be downgraded for the third year running, from an average of 10 to perhaps 7 per cent this year. With the dividend credit threat and the prospect of rising interest rates, "it's not a wonderful backdrop for equities".

Mr Graham Wood, head of UK

equities at Standard Life, believes a market consolidation would be healthy after its extremely strong run. Although the market might fall 10 per cent if dividend credits are abolished, he said this would not have a lasting impact unless the market "takes it as a signal that the Labour Party is turning anti-business and anti-profits".

This might happen if the move was accompanied by a particularly hefty windfall tax.

Robert Buckland, UK equity strategist at HSBC James Capel, also believes the market could quickly

resume its upward movement after an initial fall.

He said: "Most of us would see a fall in the market as quite healthy. There is a lot of money sitting on the sidelines waiting for something like that to happen."

Budget fears are not the only concern hitting the stock market. The investment head of one large life insurer said that investors are adjusting their portfolios after making heavy investments in Alliance & Leicester and Halifax, the two former building societies that recently joined the stock market.

Inefficiency adds £8bn to charges, says survey

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

BANKS, building societies and insurance companies stand accused of charging customers an extra £8 billion a year because of their administrative inefficiencies and out-of-date technology.

By far the greatest chunk of fees and commission charged to customers is taken out of instant access savings accounts, where rates are often poor. According to a survey commissioned by Direct Line, the telephone insurer, Britons could be £4 billion better off if they switched their £200 billion collective savings accounts to a direct provider.

The survey suggests that those people with mortgages from the high street banks and

building societies could save almost £2 billion by switching their account, even after taking into account redemption penalties.

The survey was carried out by Business Strategies Ltd, the consultant. It found that traditional providers had antiquated back offices and costly branch networks that were staffed and funded by charges levied on customers.

The report comes a day after the Association of British Insurers (ABI) gave warning that some direct insurers could go out of business in the current competitive trading environment. While composite insurers could offset underwriting losses with other income, direct insurers are vulnerable, the ABI said.

Customers pay an extra £950 million in household insurance because they tend to buy products from their mortgage provider without shopping around, the survey found. Hidden charges in travel insurance cost holiday-makers £310 million, while uncompetitive unsecured loans cost them £150 million. Even in motor insurance, where rates are already very competitive, car owners could be £605 million better off by going direct and avoiding paying commission to brokers, it was claimed.

Direct Line, the biggest motor insurer in the country with 2.2 million customers, pioneered selling insurance by telephone in the 1980s. Recently, however, it has seen profits fall because of a huge influx of rival direct insurers who have snatched market share by aggressive price undercutting.

Richard Holt, a director of Business Strategies Ltd, said: "Over the past 15 years the financial services industry has seen many changes, including the use of technology and the transition from branch to telephone methods of selling. We suspect that these changes are just the beginning, and the traditional branch and agent-based distribution networks are under serious threat."

AA joins ranks of the utilities

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE AA has forged an alliance with ScottishPower, the multi-utility, that will enable the motoring organisation to market electricity, gas and water to its six million members.

The deal is the largest joint initiative yet announced, as companies prepare for the competitive market in electricity, due to start in April, and gear up for further roll-outs of competition in the gas market. Other links are being forged between utilities and retailers or service-providing companies that have big consumer databases, but most are at the trial stage.

Details of the offers will not be outlined until August in the AA magazine but they will include a combined package of energy provision and AA products.

Ian Robinson, ScottishPower chief executive, said the link "will move us towards our goal of offering a complete energy package across the country".

Utilities, the northwestern multi-utility, also furthered its plans to sell energy nationwide with the creation yesterday of a separate brand — ENERGEI — to market its products.



Richard Palmer, chief executive of European Motor Holdings, the automotive distribution and services company, and Ann Wilson, finance director, yesterday reported a 31 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.3 million for the

year to March 31. Earnings rose 26 per cent to 11.2p a share. The total dividend is up 8 per cent to 5.6p, for a 3.3p final. Turnover rose to £390 million (£345 million). EMI is to begin selling a Malaysian-built car, the Nippra, in August.

Capital Corp to buy casino

By FRASER NELSON

CAPITAL CORPORATION, which escaped a £200 million hostile takeover bid from rival London Clubs International two months ago, is poised to buy a third casino in London for £25 million.

The company, which runs from two casinos in Mayfair, has acquired options to buy The Cromwell Mint casino in

South Kensington. It intends to repeat the success of its Colony Club, which sharply increased the spend per gambler after a £26 million refurbishment.

However, it will not make any firm plans until Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, rules that it is safe from a second bid from London Clubs International. Although LCI dropped its takeover attempt in April, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is still in the process of ruling whether the takeover would have been anti-competitive. A report is due next month and Mrs Beckett is expected to make a ruling in the autumn.

The CSO is hopeful of clinching a new agreement with Russia, which is restructuring its diamond industry. Mr Capon said a draft agreement was ready for consideration, adding: "On the right terms, we'd prefer them to be inside the club."

The CSO reported sales of \$4.8 billion last year. The figures are overshadowed by continuing uncertainty over Russia, which was pushed out of the CSO last December after sustained "leakage" of Russian gems. It is estimated that up to \$1 billion in Russian gems has bypassed the CSO in each of the last three years.

Tempus, page 30

Diamonds in demand despite difficult conditions

By JON ASHWORTH

WORLDWIDE sales of uncut diamonds increased in the first half of the year, in spite of tough trading conditions in Japan, the world's second-biggest market for diamonds after America.

The Central Selling Organisation (CSO) in London, which manages the supply of rough (uncut) diamonds to world markets, reported sales of \$2.88 billion in the first six months of 1997, a rise of 4.8 per cent on the same period last year. The higher sales reflect the strength of the CSO's distribution network, along with increased market share due to reduced flow of diamonds from other sources.

Between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of the world's diamonds pass through the CSO, which is controlled by De Beers, the South African mining group. Licensing delays have served to limit Russian exports, while renewed fighting in Angola, coupled with higher than normal seasonal rainfall, has affected supplies from the region. The civil war in Congo has caused further disruption.

Retail diamond sales are mixed. America, which accounts for about 34 per cent of world retail jewellery sales, is experiencing growth of about 7 per cent. Japan, with 28 per cent of the market, remains flat. Sales are up in the UK and Germany, but sluggish in France and Italy. Korea is flat, while Taiwan is recovering.

Tim Capon, a director of De Beers, said: "We're not going to see significant growth this year, and won't until we start to see encouraging signs out of Japan."

The figures are overshadowed by continuing uncertainty over Russia, which was pushed out of the CSO last December after sustained "leakage" of Russian gems. It is estimated that up to \$1 billion in Russian gems has bypassed the CSO in each of the last three years.

The CSO is hopeful of clinching a new agreement with Russia, which is restructuring its diamond industry. Mr Capon said a draft agreement was ready for consideration, adding: "On the right terms, we'd prefer them to be inside the club."

The CSO reported sales of \$4.8 billion last year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Complaints to PIA reach record level

COMPLAINTS to the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) ombudsman bureau reached record levels last year and the financial services industry is still beset by the problem of mis-selling, the PIA's principal ombudsman said yesterday. Stephen Edell, launching his annual report, said cases received had jumped 60 per cent since April 1996, reaching a high of 4,310. The total awarded to aggrieved investors rose from £2.5 million to £4.3 million. Most complaints were made on the grounds of unsuitable sales. The PIA ombudsman bureau said some of the increase was because of a takeover of business from the insurance ombudsman.

Mr Edell said that mis-selling remained a cause for concern: "The majority of cases related to allegations of breaches of the 'best advice' rules. Plainly, this issue remains a serious one from the point of view of consumers and, in my view, from the point of view of the industry." The "best advice" rule requires companies to provide clients with products suitable to their needs. Mr Edell identified endowment policies, whole of life policies and income bonds as products most widely mis-sold.

Monarch chief quits

ANTHONY CIALI, chief executive and president of Monarch Resources, resigned yesterday. Michael Beckett, chairman, said he will assume Mr Ciali's duties pending the appointment of a replacement. Monarch also announced that it is to close its Princeton, New Jersey, office on August 31. Mr Beckett said: "The closing of the office and the reorganisation of the management are the first steps in addressing the challenges as a result of the continued depressed price of gold."

Metal traders fined

EIGHT metal traders and two warehouse companies have been fined a total of £181,000 by the London Metal Exchange for breaching technical regulations over the warehousing of aluminium. Standard Chartered, Rudolf Wolff, Lehman Brothers, Barclays Metals, Billiton, E D & F Man, Gerald and Lazmet were fined between £1,000 and £25,000, while C Steinweg-Handelsveem BV Rotterdam and C Steinweg Warehousing Singapore were ordered to pay a total of £100,000.

Willis Corroon sells

WILLIS CORROON, the insurance broker, is to sell the Willis Faber & Dumas (Agencies) Lloyd's members' agent operation to its management for an undisclosed sum. The agencies provides advice and management to 689 individual Lloyd's names, 7 per cent of the total active individual membership, and to two corporate capital vehicles, which in aggregate provide £430 million of underwriting capacity, more than 4 per cent of the total Lloyd's capacity for 1997.

Philip Harris higher

PHILIP HARRIS, supplier of educational, scientific and medical equipment, had pre-tax profits of £4.4 million for the year to March 31, up from £3 million before tax and exceptional items the previous year. It benefited from J Sainsbury's campaign to provide equipment to schools, although sales of science education equipment were disappointing. Adjusted earnings rose to 25.9p a share from 19.6p. The total dividend rises to 10p from 8.2p, with a 7p final.

Chief sells off shares

MARCELO GUMUCIO, chief executive of Micro Focus, yesterday netted a profit of £889,000 after exercising options and selling shares in the company. He sold 74,500 shares at £18.45 each, raising £1.37 million. He paid £485,000 for the shares. The company said that he needed the money to pay for his move from Minneapolis to California. Mr Gumucio joined Micro Focus in January 1996 from Memorex-Telex. He holds options over a further 660,500 shares.

Virgin venture date

THE FIRST shop of Virgin Cosmetics, one of two retail ventures co-owned by the AIM-listed Victory Corporation and Richard Branson's Virgin, is set to open at the beginning of October on London's Oxford Street. Three more openings will follow by Christmas. The other venture, the Virgin Clothing company, is due to launch its lines next year. Victory yesterday reported a loss before tax of £3.7 million in the 11 months to March 31, as forecast.

Sutcliffe, Speakman up

SUTCLIFFE, SPEAKMAN, the chemicals and environmental engineering company, lifted pre-tax profits to £4.6 million from £2.36 million in the year March 31, in spite of difficult trading conditions. The company also incurred an exceptional charge of £650,000 against restructuring. Adjusted earnings were 2.63p a share, up from 2.58p. The total dividend is increased to 1.1p a share from 0.85p, with a final 0.67p.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Sells	Sells	Sells	Sells	Sells
Australia \$	2.28	2.11	Malta	0.688
Austria Sch	20.79	19.24	Netherlands Gld	3.366
Belgium Fr	61.24	56.80	New Zealand \$	3.078
Canada \$	2.287	2.211	Norway Kr	2.28
Cyprus Cyp£	0.873	0.812	Portugal Esc	208.50
Denmark Kr	11.29	10.47	S Africa Rd	7.16
Finland Mk	8.97	8.27	Spain Ptas	248.50
France Fr	9.96	9.23	Sweden Kr	13.28
Germany Dm	2.48	2.15	Switzerland Fr	2.30
Greece Dr	472	436	Turkey Lira	248723
Hong Kong \$	13.41	12.28	USA \$	1.788
Iceland	107	107		1.802
Ireland P	1.14	1.05		
Israel Sh	5.94	5.29		
Italy Lira	2932	2711		
Japan Yen	198.40	183.00		

Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Gasmen turn to tact



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

So, Sid can relax. Having been warned by the scare-mongers on the board of BG that Clare Spottiswoode was intent on rape and pillage, shareholders are now being reassured that all the gas industry regulator was after was a mutually beneficial relationship.

Ms Spottiswoode has won most of the proposals that she fought through the Monopolies and Mergers Commission; proposals which BG's directors denounced in ever more excitable terms. Yet what a few months ago would apparently have decimated the company is now greeted by chief executive David Varney as "a stable regulatory basis from which to move forward". This is a mite confusing. Companies fending off attacks on their potential earnings would be failing in their duty to shareholders if they did not scream loudly about the appalling consequences that might ensue from such unfair treatment: BG spiralled towards hysteria in its own defence. Why then was the company so willing yesterday to accept the MMC ruling with mild mannered equanimity?

In answer to this query, students of the new political realist whisper the dread phrase "windfall tax". We must all wait for Gordon Brown's Budget on July 2 to learn where he intends to go gathering the funding for his welfare to work scheme, but BG must be on the list of stopping off

points. Might there be some trade off between what the company will now hand back to gas users and what it will shortly be called upon to pass to Mr Brown?

That would provide a more plausible explanation for the emollient attitude of BG than does its figure work. The company's protestations that it had won almost as much as Ms Spottiswoode from the MMC failed to convince many analysts. Their ready reckoners showed BG having won less than a third of what it sought.

Nonetheless, Sid's dividend, so recently looking in danger of evaporation, now seems likely to suffer just a gentle shave. The spin doctors at BG have myriad reasons for why this is the case, ranging from productivity gains to a change in the treatment of depreciation. What ever Sid would have made of this, Alice would surely have spotted a few mirrors hard at work.

But few had ever really been convinced by the company's more hysterical outpourings, hence the strength of the BG share price while the MMC pondered Ms Spottiswoode's demands. The news of her virtual triumph actually sent the price

up by a few pence.

This was a somewhat unjust reaction to an impressive, and unusual, triumph for a utilities regulator and a tribute to the public relations skills of BG. The company has come a long way since its disasters with Cedric Brown. Perhaps fittingly, Richard Giordano, the BG chairman and the man who can claim to have imported fat cats into Britain despite the anti-rabies laws, was nowhere to be seen.

Brown must find right balance

The latest retail sales figures sent the markets into a spin yesterday, with talk that they highlighted the need for another rise in interest rates. But the economists who now determine the cost of money via the Bank of England's monetary policy committee will surely know better than to base their

judgment on this snapshot gauge of consumer spending.

This set of statistics is notorious for its regular revisions and incorporates seasonal adjustments that amount to the statistical equivalent of eye of dog and tail of new.

Yet, stripping out the adjustments and looking not at the volume figure, which is the statisticians' favourite, but at the actual spending figure, it is clear that consumers have been spending more. In May this year, they spent 6.3 per cent more than a year ago. There are numerous elements that can be factored in to explain this, not least the weather, the retailers' favourite explanation for all eventualities. May was a sunny month, good for sales of dresses and swimsuits: no prizes for guessing what they will be saying about June.

The mutualisation windfalls must also have boosted spending. Although the compilers of the statistics insist that they

detect no element of windfall splurging in the shops, there is no mechanism by which they would have done. But the credit card figures indicate that a fair amount of advance spending of gains yet to come has been taking place. Even getting the uncertainty of the election out of the way may have encouraged a little shopping celebration in some quarters.

It is rumoured that the figures are frightening Chancellor Gordon Brown — not a spendthrift himself, as his reluctance to splash out on a decent dinner jacket demonstrates. But he should be wary of acting too harshly to dampen down the consumer boom. For what the latest figures also demonstrate is the tight lid on prices which the consumer is maintaining. The volume figures indicate that overall, retailers are only winning sales by keeping price rises below the rate of inflation.

House prices may be rocketing

away, but in the shops, people are spending their money carefully. Retailers do not yet feel confident enough to bump up their prices to take advantage of any feel-good-factor that may be around. The task for Mr Brown in his imminent Budget will be to find a way of dampening consumer spending without bringing it to an abrupt halt.

Building problems for society hunters

If a new report is to be believed, customers are paying £8 billion a year extra for the privilege of being able to pop down to a local branch to do their banking, arrange a mortgage or buy insurance. That is a high price to pay for advice that is neither independent nor always appropriate.

Until recently, however, customers did not dream of questioning the sense of such an arrangement and companies were able to rely on such customer apathy to shift their uncompetitive products. The arrangement did little to encourage innovation. Much of that £8 billion has gone on maintaining inefficient back of-

fices. In many building societies and insurance offices technology is still used sparingly and staff spend a large proportion of their working day shuffling paper.

By contrast, direct insurers can start with cheap greenfield sites and tailor-made computer systems. Inevitably, such telephone-based operations are gradually eroding the traditional branch-based distribution of financial services. The report, you may have guessed, comes from one with a vested interest in talking down the merits of director selling — Direct Line. But that £8 billion figure should give consumers pause for thought.

It might also make Prudential and the other corporations interested in acquiring a building society think again. Who wants to acquire all those high street sites just as the boom in turning redundant banks into pubs is peaking?

Brewers Intrigue

ALCHEMY, the new venture capitalist partnership led by Jon Moulton, has picked up a hundred pubs from Allied Domecq for some £13 million. When at Apax, he spent months trying to buy Spring Inns, formerly part of Intreprenuer, only to be beaten by Phoenix Inns, formerly part of Intreprenuer. Nine months on, that deal is still not completed. Some of the publicans involved share Mr Moulton's confusion over the delay.

Billiton intends to raise \$1bn after Gencor demerger

By CARL MORTISHED

BILLITON, the non-precious metal arm of Gencor, the South African mining group, intends to raise \$1 billion in a share offering after a listing of the company on the London Stock Exchange.

Gencor is demerging its non-precious metals operations from the South African gold and platinum mines. The demerged entity, which is to be called Billiton, will comprise the aluminium, ferroalloys and base metals businesses. These include the metals businesses acquired two years ago, when Gencor bought Shell's subsidiary, Bil-

lition, for \$1.2 billion. City analysts reckon the Billiton assets could be valued at about \$5 billion before the cash call.

Mick Davis, Gencor's finance director, said that Billiton would be a major new mining company with access to capital markets, while Gencor would be left free to focus on the precious metal markets.

Mr Davis said: "The capital raising will be three to four times the size that would be possible for a South African company. It will enable us to act decisively."

Gencor has been given ex-

emption from South African exchange controls to allow the demerger, which is being effected by the sale of the mining assets to Billiton in exchange for shares which will then be distributed to Gencor shareholders.

Gencor also revealed the merger of its nickel interests with QNI, the Australian nickel producer, forming the world's fourth-largest nickel mining business. The combined business will be worth about \$1.7 billion and Gencor's 55 per cent interest will be transferred to Billiton on the demerger.

Billiton's \$1 billion share offering will take place at the time of the flotation, expected in early August, and will be lead-managed by UBS and Fleming. Mr Davis said the issue would add about 20 per cent to the value of the company. Billiton's operating profit for the nine months to March was \$428 million with pre-tax profits of \$698 million. Aluminium accounts for about 40 per cent of Billiton and made profits of \$122 million in the nine-month period. Mr Davis said that aluminium had benefited from growth in price and the acquisition of Alusaf, the South African aluminium company.

Mr Davis said the company had capital projects totalling \$3 billion on the drawing board. However, the proceeds of the share offering could be applied to acquisitions, including privatisation opportunities in Latin America.

Tempus, page 30



Mick Davis, Gencor's finance director, said Billiton's share offering may fund acquisitions

Bae in JSF link with Lockheed

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AEROSPACE has chosen Lockheed Martin as its bidding partner on the \$170 billion joint strike fighter (JSF), the US military aircraft for the next century and largest ever defence project.

The decision marks an important strategic move by BAE. The company is now set to enter into a formal alliance with Lockheed, the world's biggest defence company.

The two will join forces to counter the might of Boeing, which will surpass Lockheed after merging with McDonnell Douglas. Boeing is BAE's main rival in commercial aerospace and also the only other manufacturer competing to build the JSF. A US government decision on who will be asked to build the aircraft is due in 2001.

Sir Richard Evans, BAE chief executive, said: "With a

requirement for 3,000 aircraft, the JSF is the most significant transatlantic military programme of the 21st century."

Norman Augustine, the chairman of Lockheed, said: "We will benefit greatly from BAE's capabilities."

BAE's own bid, which also included McDonnell Douglas, was rejected last year. If BAE had chosen to join the Boeing bid, its competitive position in commercial aerospace would have been undermined, insiders said.

The Lockheed team also includes Rolls-Royce, Allison, Pratt & Whitney and Northrop Grumman. British Aerospace will participate in all phases of development but its special expertise is in vertical take-off. The JSF will be an up-dated combination of the Harrier jump-jet and the B2 Stealth bomber.

Piasecki sells stake to pay off debts

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

JUREK PIASECKI, chairman and chief executive of Goldsmiths, sold £1.38 million worth of shares in the jewellery company yesterday to clear all his personal debts, including money owed to Lloyd's of London.

Mr Piasecki said the cash will pay off the £350,000 he owes Lloyd's, with the rest going to pay debts associated with the buyout of Goldsmiths from Orlifram in the early 1990s. His total personal debts were £1.2 million. After yesterday's sale of 400,000 shares at 345p, he holds 12 per cent of the group. Steve Sar-

gent, finance director, sold 35,000 shares, while Jim West, another director, sold 25,000. They both retain a 0.4 per cent interest in the group.

Mr Piasecki insisted that he had not sold because of any dip in trading. "In the last few weeks we have seen double-digit increases in like-for-like sales," he said. He has no intention of selling more shares for some time, he said. He sold 200,000 shares at the start of last year, when the shares were at 225p. The shares fell 4p to 340p yesterday.

Steel firm planning flotation

By FRASER NELSON

SHEFFIELD Forgemasters, the steel producer whose wares were intercepted en route to Iraq five years ago to make a suspected "super-gun" for Saddam Hussein, is coming to the market.

The company, which was cleared of any wrongdoing by the Scott Report, is to float its aerospace division for around £60 million early next year. The float will be worth £14 million to the four men who masterminded its buyout from British Steel and First Brown. The company made a pre-tax profit of £9.2 million in the year to March 31.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Charities Act 1960, that a meeting of the trustees of the above named charity will be held at the offices of the Charity Commission, 15, Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AU, on the 25th day of June 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purpose of considering the proposed amalgamation of the above named charity with the Charity of the Rev. Canon John H. Jones, of the same denomination, and for the purpose of considering the proposed amalgamation of the above named charity with the Charity of the Rev. Canon John H. Jones, of the same denomination, and for the purpose of considering the proposed amalgamation of the above named charity with the Charity of the Rev. Canon John H. Jones, of the same denomination.

LEGAL NOTICES

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Retail sales figures raise fears of a new rate rise

BRITAIN was shopping in May and it looks like it will have to pick up the tab in July, with the prospect of another rise in interest rates growing by the day.

The stronger than expected retail sales numbers may be just the excuse Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, needs to push up rates by another quarter point when the monetary policy committee meets next week.

The economic news sank any hopes of a rally in the equity market and left gilts nursing sizeable losses on the day. At one stage, the FTSE 100 was 55 points down, but regained its composure and halved earlier losses despite an opening fall on Wall Street. It ended 25.2 down at 4,657.0, stretching the loss of the past two days to 88.1.

Sentiment continued to be undermined by the prospect of the Chancellor scrapping tax credits on dividend payments in the Budget. Brokers are forecasting further unsettled conditions ahead of Friday's "triple-witching" hour accompanying the expiry of the June futures series.

The biggest casualty among the top 100 companies was BSKYB, the satellite broadcaster in which News International, that owns The Times, has a sizeable stake. It finished 45p lower, or 7.94 per cent, at 521p after reports that the Independent Television Commission would be ordering it to dispose of its stake in the British Digital Broadcasting consortium, Carlton Communications, up 9p at 519p, and Granada, down 9p at 852p, are the other two members of the consortium. Carlton is tipped to buy BSKYB's stake.

The news from BSKYB came just 24 hours after the announcement that Sam Chisholm, chief executive, was leaving for medical reasons.

NatWest Group, up 4p at 750p, has found a friend at last in Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, Johnny de la Hay, analyst, shares the shares a "buy", saying the group's current problems could eventually benefit shareholders.

Guinness was unmoved by the continuing threat of LVMH, its associate, to scupper its proposed £24 billion merger with Grand Metropolitan, 5p dearer at 386p. In a separate move on Tuesday, LVMH picked up 4.75 million shares in GrandMet amid



Shares in Morland, the brewer, are at a year's low of 52p

suggestions it was another attempt to disrupt the merger. Some brokers claim it may be the prelude for the French luxury goods group to negotiate a three-way tie-up, creating one of the biggest spirit and wine producers in the world. LVMH already has a 14 per cent stake in Guinness, 2p firmer at 590p. BICC edged ahead 3p to 182p on the back of a "buy"

recommendation from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, while Siebe continued to benefit from this week's support from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, with a rise of 12p at £10.01.

There was a strong bout of indecision at the end of the day as the price fell 45p to £18.37, after Marcelo Gurnio, chief executive, sold a large parcel of shares. He has exercised his

options on 2,000 shares at 605p and a further 72,500 at 653p, which he held on in the market for £18.45. He still has options on a further 660,500 shares.

IES Group saw its price almost halved, with a fall of 51p to 68p after it issued a warning of first-half losses and a shortfall in both sales and profits for the year. Sales have been slow.

Bid speculation in First Leisure boiled over, with the price closing 4 1/2p easier at 346p. Talk earlier in the week suggested a bid may be on the way soon from Rank Organisation, 8p off at 371p. First Leisure is due to unveil half-year figures next week. Brokers are looking for a downturn in profits from £17.3 million to £16.1 million.

One company looking for better times is Morland, the brewer of Old Speckled Hen, whose shares stand at a low for the year of 52p. Only last week the group posted a useful increase in pre-tax profits and is confident about future prospects after a £12 million investment programme.

FKI ended the session 3 1/2p lower at 181p in spite of a "buy" recommendation from UBS, the broker, in the wake of full-year figures at the top end of expectations. Earnings grew by 27 per cent during the past five years.

Still reflecting a recent doubling of profits to £6.5 million, Firth Ribson continued to trade at a two-year high of 95p. Albert E. Sharp, the company's own broker, has raised its forecast for the current year from £10.1 million to £13.5 million.

GILT-EDGED: The stronger than expected retail sales numbers fuelled further speculation about another rise in bank base rates. Shorter-dated issues within the five-year range were the worst hit, with a flattening of the yield curve recorded among medium and longer-dated stocks.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished 2 1/2p down at £113 1/2, as \$5,000 contracts were completed.

In shorts, Treasury 8 per cent was £2 1/2 up at £108 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost £ 1/2 at £102 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street also pulled back from earlier losses in morning trade and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 50.67 points lower at 7,710.11.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7,710.11 (-50.67)
S&P Composite 888.19 (-4.23)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20,497.85 (-95.81)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14,303.89 (-105.26)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 849.13 (-1.98)

Sydney:
ASX 2,673.40 (-8.30)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3,730.27 (-11.21)

Singapore:
Strait 1,985.14 (-19.12)

Brussels:
General 1,767.37 (-41.50)

Paris:
CAC-40 2,751.74 (-10.86)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1,129.30 (-3.30)

London:
FTSE 100 4,657.00 (-25.2)
FTSE 250 4,516.2 (-21.8)
FTSE 500 2,256.7 (-12.0)
FTSE 100 Index 4,657.00 (-25.2)
FTSE All-Share 2,213.78 (-11.54)
FTSE Non Financials 2,247.76 (-11.44)
FTSE Financials 1,220.21 (-6.43)
FTSE Govt Sec 95.29 (-0.39)
Bulgaria 4,620
SEAQ Volume 1,839,602,019
German Mark 2,831.11 (-0.077)
Exchange Index 1,000.0 (-0.2)
Bank of England official rate 4.00p
EASU 1,440.0
CSDR 1,778
RPI 156.9 May (2.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 156.3 May (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Aston Villa 790
Caradon 75 - 22p
Gallagher 301p - 7
Halifax 734p + 1 1/2
Heart of Midlothian 111p - 1
Highland Timber 12p
Integrated As Mgmt 125
Int'l Biotech C Shares 99
Longbridge Intl 17p
Norwich Union (200) 318p
Powdermill Pharms 197p
Royalblue Group 210
SBS Group 110p
Topps Tiles 112p
Versatile Group 3p

RIGHTS ISSUES

Century Inns n/p (158) 4p - 2
Pillar Props n/p (205) 15p - 2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:
Gencor 279p (+18p)
Vanguard 154p (+18p)
Central Pacific 481p (+18p)
Carlton Comm 519p (+9p)
LASMO 269p (+8p)
BTR 203p (+9p)
Celtach 265p (+13p)
Monteagle 130p (+8p)
Harris (Philp) 251p (+13p)
Siebe 1001p (+12p)
Sohayco 950p (+10p)

FALLS:
Formisier 122p (-7p)
Barclays 287p (-13p)
Graham 288p (-15p)
Abbot Mead 608p (-29p)
DCS Group 252p (-11p)
Matthew Clark 252p (-10p)
Logica 695p (-20p)
Filtronic Com 383p (-11p)
Capreight 485p (-13p)
Reed Int 577p (-13p)
Lond & Mar 422p (-16p)
M/H Holdings 85p (-9p)
Cheriton Int 60p (-8p)
Hewston 78p (-6p)
Shield Dig 522p (-22p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS
End of the holiday

THE stock market is still blithely ignoring the potentially damaging impact of the abolition of the dividend tax credit. Investors in bull markets have a tendency to ignore negative information until it hits them in the face and worries about the tax credit remain worries until the Budget on July 2. However, some companies could be hard hit by the notional reform which many forecast could strip £4 billion of equity income from pension funds.

The risk is that removing the tax credit will end pension holidays, a major source of profit for companies whose pension funds contain huge surpluses. Worse still, those without surpluses may be required to make immediate capital injections under the Minimum Funding Requirement rules in the recent Pensions Act. Most major companies have defined benefit final salary schemes and such

funds are heavily skewed towards equities. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has identified some 27 companies that might need to make immediate cash injections to comply with MFR if the tax credit were removed. Zeneqa, which is based on historic data and analysis, indicates that Zeneqa's own assumptions, including an injection of £275 million and BT some £700 million while Rolls-Royce would have to top up its fund by £219 million.

The overall effect on the equity market might be minimal. Given that actuaries will demand that pension funds be topped up, the cash flow lost from investments will then be replaced by contributions that will then be invested. But will the new contributions be turned into equities or gilts? The latter look a better bet at the moment.

Food Retailers

SUPERMARKET

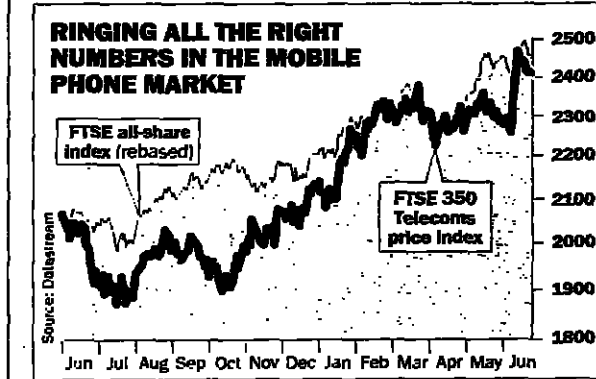
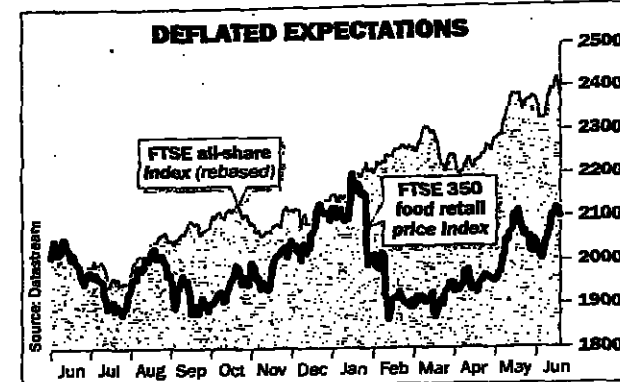
shares are caught between two schools of thought. One suggests they are undervalued and the other counsels investors to avoid them. The worries point to food price deflation: all of the big grocers, barring J Sainsbury, admit that this is a problem. However, cyclical factors, including the dry weather, prices higher, mean that deflation should turn quickly to inflation. Credit Lyonnais Laing reckons food prices will be rising by around 4 per cent next spring.

Hence, the case for the sector being undervalued, as imminent food price rises have not yet been factored into shares. But investors hoping for a rerating should not forget the industry's capacity to inflict self injury.

Tesco's Unbearable Value

price campaign was great for consumers, but terrible for the bottom line. The campaign began as the petrol price war ended and the feeling this year is that as soon as food prices begin to rise, battle may again be joined between the grocers. Tesco once more leading the charge. With Tesco doing

well under its new bosses, who are keen to win share, renewed competition is a spur, rather than decreasing margins, as inflation appears, will again increase as the grocers discount fast-moving lines. In that event, the weak will suffer the greatest injury, but even the big players will feel some pain.



VODAFONE fell 1 1/2p to 301p in heavy turnover of 17.59 million shares. Jim Ross at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, says the shares have come up from the 250p level and have reached their target price of 300p.

He adds: "Now that the market has started to come off, the recent rally in the shares has come to an end. There is not much bad news fundamentally. It's been the best performer."

Mark Lambert, at NatWest Securities, agrees: "Reaching 300p has been the trigger point. They look

a bit expensive at these levels."

Mr Ross says there are worries that growth rates among mobile phone companies have begun to stagnate.

"The market is still growing, but price tariffs are still too high. Marketing efforts are being concentrated on switching customers from the low technology analogue phones to high-tech digital," he adds.

Securicor was added 40 per cent of Cellnet, is expected report a profits setback today. Orange finished 4p off at 202p.

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COCA					LIFE WHEAT				
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holiday

Fat cats become endangered species

Last Saturday, a fundraiser attacked the home of Sir Desmond Pitcher, the north-west industrialist and chairman of United Utilities. Sir Desmond is also the man dubbed "king of the fat cats". Last you thought this coincidence, a caller to a local newspaper, claiming to be the perpetrator, issued a threat that "all of the fat cats are terrorist targets". The police have urged precautions. Right-thinking people tut-tutted, too late in the day.

How embarrassing. A newspaper, albeit one now defunct, first gayer utility "fat cats", a term since taken up by virtually all. They became hate figures when a new chairman of the now equally defunct British Gas plc brought in pay reforms that raised the basic pay of his chief executive by 75 per cent. At the time, British Gas was sacking employees in droves to meet regulatory demands and, in consequence, annoying its once-satisfied customers with lousy service. Another newspaper published an album of pictures of the homes of chairmen of utilities,

including Sir Desmond's photographic, easily traceable hall. Newspapers were, however, bit players in whipping up anger against bosses of privatised utilities. It was a Labour spokesman from the North West who called Sir Desmond "the king of the fat cats". Ian McCartney is now Industry Minister with responsibility for corporate governance.

Sir Desmond took about £360,000 out of United Utilities in 1995-96, his chief executive a shade more. That is an awful lot, unless you work in investment banking, where hundreds get far more. Rightly or wrongly, it is average for a company of this size in the FTSE 100 share index. If you take the three companies nearest to it, smaller than UU, the chief executive of a monopolistic building materials company took £390,000 plus conditional bonus, the chairman of an oil company was paid

£490,000 plus and the boss of an entrepreneurial conglomerate grossed £3 million, including £1.2 million pay.

Utility directors' pay became the subject of outrage orchestrated by the Labour party because it wanted to soften utilities up for a windfall tax. It laid down a massive propaganda barrage to prepare the way for Treasury infantry to move in and clean up. Others eagerly bought the populist line. John Major himself called pay rises "distasteful". Even Sir Richard Greenbury's committee on board pay, one of whose much higher-paid members is now a government minister, cravenly but conveniently concluded that most utility bosses might usefully be paid less than themselves.

The windfall tax will punish shareholders, maybe customers but not directors, unless it hits performance bonuses. "Fat cats"



will remain visible objects of political envy because it is politically necessary to penalise owners of infrastructure. After the £5 billion sequestered from BG shareholders yesterday, owners of electricity wires will surely be targeted to stop competition raising small customers' bills. Utility bosses make useful scapegoats for the ensuing job losses, leaving regula-

tors as champions of the people. Is it surprising that some misguided person should attempt to exact vigilante justice on Sir Desmond or his rivals? They have been demonised yet seemingly set beyond the law. Democracies have a well-earned remedy if they deem that some citizens have too much income for the public good. We tax it. Top incomes could easily be taxed at 50 per cent, or a bit more, without economic harm. But Gordon Brown has ruled out any rise in tax rates and meaner allowances would scarcely hit the rich.

Perhaps the Chancellor has some plan to make high pay non-deductible for companies. Perhaps Mr McCartney is even now drafting a Bill to force all quoted companies to pack their remuneration committees with Church of Scotland ministers. Perhaps training programmes funded by the windfall tax will flood the City with

cheap finance directors. More likely, a self-consciously populist government needs enemies and needs to keep them warm.

Critics, armed by the Greenbury committee, distinguish between "competitive" businesses and unworthy bosses of "monopoly" privatised utilities, who supposedly have a much easier job and deserve little. That contained a grain of truth for those who managed the same businesses in the public sector and were given sure-fire options at privatisation. Aside from a few classy exceptions, most of them have gone, some because they were not up to the much greater challenge of running a heavily regulated public company. Even Sir Richard, a tiger at Marks & Spencer, might have proved a rhinoceros at British Gas.

If utilities now offer less than the going rate for finance directors,

whose pay drives the rest of the boardroom, they will end up with second-rate managers. Indeed, top managers will increasingly demand more to run utilities to compensate for the aggro. Ministers may think second-rate bosses are good enough. Shareholders have different ideas. Why should we settle for anything but the best to cope with a hostile world?

The market solution to the "fat cat" impasse, already gaining ground rapidly, is for utilities to cease being British public companies. Regional electricity or water companies are rapidly falling to foreign takeovers. These take directors out of the public eye. And if you need managers to run operations, not a whole public company, you can recruit them for less. BG and Centrica, remnants of once-great British Gas, may follow.

Once populists have driven our utilities into foreign hands, they will no doubt regret the loss of independence and UK control of such an important sector of the economy — as much as they now regret the attack on Sir Desmond.

Oliver August on the economic revolution in the Philippines

Three steps to privatisation heaven for the new Thatcherite



Fidel Ramos presides over a nation enjoying the benefits of unshackled growth

The Philippines was one of the first countries to copy the deregulation and privatisation programme pioneered by Baroness Thatcher. Long before European governments contemplated taking Lady T's medicine, the Asian nation put its assets up for sale and started torching its rule books.

Fidel Ramos, the right-wing president, came to power in 1992 and unleashed a truly Thatcherite crusade. Last night he showed off the results to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, at Lancaster House. As a new Labour convert to the free market, he was sincerely flattered by so much imitation.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Ramos said: "We have learnt very much from the UK. This has made the relationship between our two countries much closer. Many British companies now operate in our privatised industries."

The Philippine privatisation and deregulation programme is being carried out in three co-ordinated steps, explained Mr Ramos, a graduate of West Point, the US military academy. The first was the "sale of non-performing government assets", as he euphemistically called the derelict power sector.

Until 1992, doing business in Manila was equivalent to making deals in a sauna. The capital constantly suffered so-called brown-outs — power cuts of up to 12 hours. No air-conditioner could keep out the tropical summer heat for that long. Many foreign businessmen simply refused to visit the Philippines. And those that did, found many factories idle again due to the brown-outs.

Previous governments had failed to invest in new power stations. Mr Ramos made the restoration of a reliable power supply his first priority — much like Lady Thatcher quickly disposed of the non-performing National Freight Corporation.

After the success of the power privatisation, Mr Ramos moved to step two of his master plan, handing control over other state assets to the private sector and tearing up inhibiting regulations.

Privatisation revenues grew from around \$1 billion in 1992 to \$3 billion annually. The money came from selling off transport, phone, steel, oil and water companies.

Simultaneously, banking laws were liberalised, restrictions on currency transactions were lifted and foreign ownership rules were changed. Mr Ramos echoed the belief of

successive Tory governments that privatisation and deregulation had to go hand-in-hand. But the Philippine programme has not run its full course yet. The third step is more far-reaching than anything Lady Thatcher ever attempted. The next enterprises targeted for auction include state pensions and social security funds.

During Mr Ramos's week-long visit in London, Britain has enjoyed the reflected glory of being the home of privatisation. But is there any money to be made from the Thatcher legacy? The Philippine President said Britain is more dominant in his country today

than at any time since 1763, when the British empire held sway over the 7,800 islands in the South China Sea. "The UK was the biggest foreign investor in the Philippines last year, surpassing even the US and Japan," Mr Ramos said. Many of the investment opportunities have arisen from the privatisation programme.

BICC, a world leader in cable manufacturing, is participating in upgrading the privatised telecom network with fibre-optic cables. Shell is taking advantage of deregulation in the oil and gas sector. Yesterday Mr Ramos witnessed the signing of Shell's \$4 billion deal for a Philippine

natural gas power plant. Other companies include GKN, Unilever, British Gas, Glaxo and Marks & Spencer.

The real windfalls, however, are being reaped by the financial institutions in the City of London who accumulated privatisation expertise over the last 15 years. After the relaxation of bank laws, all big investment houses are setting up in Manila. One broker who has just returned after several weeks in the city said: "Everybody is pumping big sums into the Philippines."

But some banks are getting out a lot more than others. The plum job of advising the Government on privatisation

has yet again fallen to NM Rothschild. During the 1980s it advised Lady Thatcher on the flotation of the electricity companies and other privatisations. It is doing a repeat performance for Mr Ramos.

Overall, Jardine Fleming is the largest foreign broker house in Manila. Business had been extremely buoyant — until yesterday. It emerged that the house is being investigated for alleged illegal short selling on the Manila stock exchange.

Such incidents are relatively rare in the Philippines compared with other Asian stock markets notorious for their insider dealing. But the Jardine case does raise the question of how safe Philippine investments are and how the economy will behave when Mr Ramos, known as Steady Eddie, steps down in 1998. Views are divided.

David Kemp, the British Government's export promoter for the Philippines and a former employee of BICC, is optimistic that the country will continue to work towards the position it once held. It was the biggest economy in Asia in the 1950s. He said: "GDP growth stood at 7 per cent last year. It's a vibrant place. Construction is booming."

The broker who just returned from Manila is of a different opinion. "Some of the problems have only been solved superficially," he said. "The free market is not totally there yet. When the reduction in gas prices after the reforms were lower than expected, they said they wanted to put a cap on every operators' profits. The free market has yet to break free from the grip of half a dozen powerful families whose conglomerates dominate the economy."

The families are a leftover from the Marcos era. The dictator reigned from 1965 to 1986 and destroyed his country's dominant position in Asia with his "crony capitalism" and by siphoning off millions of dollars to Swiss bank accounts.

Mr Ramos, who helped overthrow Marcos, is still trying to get some of the money back. He said: "There are complex legal procedures to determine the ownership of the accounts. We have to pry the money out of the banks."

But with or without the money, the Philippines is enjoying the benefits of unshackled growth. Mr Ramos said: "People call us the new tiger economy. But we don't have tigers in the Philippines. They would have to call us the young bull."

A touch more venom brought to 'slaying' of BG's newborn

Christine Buckley on the company's about-turn in its fight with the regulator over Transco pricing proposals

Last year British Gas was spitting blood over pricing proposals for Transco, its pipelines operation. In vitriolic rages the company pronounced Ofgas's plan as: "One of the biggest smash and grab raids ever."

Ten thousand jobs would have to go, the business could not survive, the directors railed.

In a particularly hysterical moment the pricing formula was likened to the action of King Herod, killing the newborn Transco.

Something has been put in the company tea. BG, as the pipeline company has now become after British Gas's demerger, has had a biblical revelation while battling with the might of King Herod.

It could not have been more conciliatory yesterday when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) not only endorsed the slaying of the newborn, but asked for it to be done with a little more venom — serving up bill cuts to customers of £29 per year, compared with the £28 sought by Ofgas.

David Varney, BG's chief executive, was kitten-like. "It is the umpire's verdict and we will work with that umpire's verdict," he said recently.

While Philip Rogerson, deputy chairman, and Harry Moulson, the now departed managing director of Transco, had declared virtual war on Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, Mr Varney said meekly: "This is a tough settlement, but — provided we continue to improve our efficiency — one which we believe will enable us to manage and finance our business effectively."

It is a quiet end to a bitter battle, and an end that was not greeted by BG's main warriors — yesterday. Mr Rogerson and Richard Giordano, the chairman, were absent from the proceedings, leaving Mr Varney to be served up as the acceptable face of BG.

The non-appearance of Mr Rogerson was more than a little surprising given that he had led the long and tortuous negotiations with the regulator and then made the plain-

ed "one of the biggest smash and grab raids ever." He would have had to clarify his statement in 1996 that "this business cannot be run on the basis of these proposals".

Mr Moulson left BG last year on medical advice after the pressures of the job threatened to inflame a previous ailment.

His contribution to the debate was more fanciful than that of Mr Rogerson.

In one of his last presentations, accompanied by a video of a happy child at play, he said Transco — which was formed in 1994 — was a "child with a very bright future" but that King Herod was walking the streets: "his [sic] proposals ... may have a disastrous effect upon this child."

The draconian plans, which would, Mr Rogerson said, wreck the business, are now being implemented albeit with some changes introduced by MMC.

These alterations, largely to the operating expenditure, are considered by observers to be minimal, contesting BG's claims they are significant.

As a pleasant and agreeable man, and one who presumably wants to keep his job, Mr Varney would not entertain for one moment the idea of condemning the rhetoric of his superiors and predecessors as rubbish. But rubbish spoken to whip up misplaced concern we must judge it to be. Backtracking at an astonishing pace is what we are witnessing.

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FINDING A MORTGAGE if you are self employed or a director of your own company can be a frustrating experience. Many lenders will request three years full audited accounts before an application is even considered, whilst others now refuse such applications completely.

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Mortgage flexibility for business people

ALLIED DUNBAR

Bank error

"INVESTMENT banking is all about fast, informed decision-making," burbles a half-page ad, appearing yesterday. How true. Decisions such as whether to drop £90 million on derivatives, for example. Whether to hand back all your bonus, or hang on to half of it and hope that this will be judged sacrifice enough. Which senior executive should be forced to lay down his job for his superiors. Ah, decisions, decisions. Because it is NatWest Markets that chose the

worst week in its history to launch a graduate recruitment drive. Read on, and you will learn that NatWest is a "fast-growing investment bank". Last week, maybe. Those fast, informed decision-makers have changed their minds.

● NOT a whiff of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into BG's pipelines leaked — not always the way with key MMC rulings, alas. Perhaps BG is well used to protecting against gas leaks. In the two weeks the company had to digest advance copies, only 20 senior personnel were allowed near them — and they had to return their reports nightly to a safe.

Bitter brew

THE aloppops row has rattled the cages at Bass. A senior executive has gone to George Howarth, Under Secretary at the Home Office, to suggest measures to combat the problem, or b) put up some special pleading for his brands and rubbish the others. You decide which. I know who he is but am honour-bound not to unmask him, such is the sensitivity. Bass is suggesting a four-point plan to keep the "pops out of the hands of babes and infants" in con-



junction with" other measures by the Portman Group, the ineffectual drinks industry body that has made such a pig's ear of defending the stuff.

No suggestion that Bass is trying to distance itself from the Portman lot. Oh no. But the company attacks "irresponsible" brands that use drug and sexual innuendo or emphasise alcoholic effect. Which last, I suppose, must include Thelwell, launched by arch-rival Allied Domecq.

Logo crazy

OVER to the BBC. Less than four months to go now, and counsellors are on hand to cope with the inevitable psychological trauma. On October 4 the new logo is born, as first

revealed in this column. Ariel, the staff newsletter, has printed no fewer than 12 contact numbers that staff can call in those dark hours before the dawn when the pressure is too great to bear. Interestingly, the paper mentions the £5 million cost of changing the logo, a figure which, as I recall, was being rather firmly talked down before. "Guidelines for using the logo will be published in September," Ariel concludes. Hang on, chaps. Help is on the way.

● THERE'S new Labour. There's old Labour. Now Trade and Industry Minister Ian McCartney has a new category again. The diminutive corporate governance minister is introducing himself as a representative of "little Labour."

Girl power

JOYCE GRENFELL lives on at the Girls' Public Day School Trust. "There has been rather a long silence from the Minsers Network owing to such excitements as our 125th anniversary celebrations," a letter tells. The City Group meets on July 9, when "Nicola Horlick will speak on her experience of combining a City career with raising a young family". At the time of her abrupt career change, "this issue of careers and children was raised though not fully explored in the ensuing press comment". Funny, I seem to remember we read of little else for some weeks.

No hitch

HOW nice to see that Carol Sergeant's brush with Barings has done her career no lasting harm. As head of leading UK banks supervision at the Bank of England, her department's role in granting an "informal concession" to the bank to exceed its 25 per cent limit on exposure to Far East markets came under scrutiny in the official report into the collapse. Sergeant was yesterday named as one of the Bank's representatives on a new ten-person (4) committee to look into the question of a City super-regulator.

MARTIN WALLER



Ian McCartney: the corporate governance miniature?



"Don't you just love being in control, just once"

UK firm poised to take over Italian football club

BY ADAM JONES

A UK investment company, which was behind unsuccessful bids for Wembley Stadium and the Trocadero in the West End of London, will discover tomorrow whether its audacious bid to become the first foreign owner of a top Italian football club has been successful.

Stellican, a private firm that had a turnover of £276,000 in 1996, has just one more obstacle to overcome before taking over Vicenza, the Italian Cup winners which also finished eighth in Serie A, the country's

premier league, last season. The fate of the club, from northwest Italy, has been placed in the hands of a bankruptcy court after Trevi, the owning family's textile company, folded.

Stellican specialises in buying distressed companies and was also involved in an unsuccessful bid to refinance Wembley Stadium in 1995.

The firm is the European representative of Apollo, the US "vulture fund" run by Leon Black, a former colleague of Michael Milken, the

junk bond king at Drexel Burnham Lambert.

Stellican is run by Stephen Julius, who attracted media attention in a personal capacity in 1994 as a friend of Diana, Princess of Wales. The financier was one of four men who accompanied her to a rugby international in Cardiff.

With backing from unnamed UK parties, but not Apollo, Stellican outbid two local consortia with a £2.7 billion (£8 million) offer for the club. However, the two rivals will have the chance to present the bankruptcy court with higher bids on Friday, which Stellican can match if it wishes.

Vicenza is expected to make a £3.9 billion profit in the year to June 1997, on a turnover of £3.4 billion. In common with most Italian clubs, its stadium is owned by the municipality. Profits should be boosted next year by its appearance in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

With its recent ability to thrive on a small budget, the club has been compared to Wimbledon in the UK. Stellican said that the current general manager and trainer would be retained if the bid is successful. Last season's star players include Marcello Otero, the Uruguayan striker, and Giampiero Maini, the Italian international due to leave for AC Milan. The club's most famous former player is Paolo Rossi, the Italian's hero of the 1982 World Cup.

Mr Julius said yesterday that the prospect of foreign ownership has been hugely controversial in Vicenza, where the club has only recently emerged from footballing obscurity in the lower divisions.

Mr Julius is half-Milanese, but he light-heartedly admitted that this is probably more disadvantageous than being 100 per cent British, given the rivalry between clubs in Italy.

There is a possibility that Stellican may ultimately be a stalking horse only, shaking up more "acceptable" local bidders.



Up for the cup: Vicenza's Giovanni Lopez lifts the trophy

Cammell Laird on the path to market flotation

BY OUR CITY STAFF

CAMMELL LAIRD published a pathfinder prospectus yesterday for a stock market flotation that is expected to value the ship conversion and repair specialist at about £20 million.

The institutional placing is expected to raise between £3 million and £4 million of new money. The placing is being sponsored by Beeson Gregory. The company has raised pre-tax profits from £175,000 in the year to April 30, 1995 to £2 million in the year to April 30, 1997. Over the same time, sales grew from £11.5 million to £22.6 million.

John Stafford, chief executive, said: "We believe that flotation will offer Cammell Laird significant benefits as it enters its next phase of development, particularly as the yard's additional dry dock capacity comes on stream later in the current year. We intend to expand the technical services department, and plan additional expenditure on the

site to enhance both the scope and productivity of our service."

The flotation proceeds will also be used to carry out work on the site at Birkenhead, Merseyside, including the installation of cranes. The board will also consider further acquisitions to enhance productivity or reduce asset hire costs.

Cammell Laird directors believe that prospects will be boosted by a number of emerging trends in the shipping market. Repair work will be helped by the growing age of the world shipping fleet, now estimated at 19 years. Extra life extension work is expected. Cammell is also looking to work arising from the 1994 tightening of regulations on safety of life at sea and expects an increase in demand for specialist oil and gas vessels.

The group's employees are to be given an opportunity to apply for shares in the placing and are being granted options.

Straker and Oyez to merge

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

STRAKER and Oyez, Britain's two largest independent office supplies companies, are to merge with the aim of floating on the London Stock Exchange next year.

The merged group, to be known as Oyez Straker, will have sales of £70 million and operating profit of some £6

million. Both the Oyez holding company, SLSS (Holdings), and Straker, are part-owned by NatWest Ventures. Oyez Straker will apply for a share listing, probably next year.

NatWest Ventures owns 65 per cent of Oyez, with the rest owned by directors and employees. It owns 27 per cent of

Sainsbury's DIY chief nets 'golden hello' of £400,000

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY, the supermarket group, gave a £400,000 "golden hello" to David Bremner when he joined as head of its do-it-yourself and overseas businesses last year, the annual report discloses.

In spite of a dramatic fall in profits and the share price last year, all the company's directors received pay rises. However, none received payments under Sainsbury's new long-term incentive plan because performance criteria were not met.

Mr Bremner joined J Sainsbury as joint chief executive last August from Watson & Phillips, the convenience food and food services business, where he was chief executive. He was paid £400,000 for accepting the job and £55,000 in a guaranteed performance bonus and profit-sharing payments.

His basic salary last year was £145,000 and he received a further £20,000 to cover the cost of a company car and medical insurance.

Kevin McCarten, who joined as marketing director in December 1995, received £62,000 for accepting the job and will be paid a further £40,000 this year in a guaranteed performance bonus and a profit-sharing arrangement.

David Quarumby, former joint managing director, received a total of £977,000 last year, including a £556,000 pension contribution for loss of office. He is also entitled to exercise options worth more than £1.5 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hitachi Credit takes step towards placing

HITACHI CREDIT (UK), the credit finance subsidiary of Hitachi Credit Corporation of Japan, published a pathfinder prospectus yesterday for a London stock market placing which is likely to value the British arm at between £45 million and £50 million. Up to £20 million of new money is expected to be raised for the company in the placing.

HCUK was set up in 1982 to offer credit finance to business and personal sectors in the UK. In the year to March 31 it made £5.6 million before tax, up 52 per cent, on sales up 16 per cent to £60 million. For the current year HCUK says trading has been encouraging. It aims to grow and develop existing business areas and to target new areas of opportunity, including expansion into continental European markets.

Grainger pegs payout

GRAINGER TRUST, the tenanted residential property group, raised profits before tax and exceptional gains from £3.5 million to £3.6 million in the six months to March 31. However, the previously announced writedown of £14.7 million on development land sent the group into an £11.1 million loss. Losses per share of 30.8p compared with the previous 9.8p of earnings. The interim dividend, however, is held at 1.62p.

Thomas Locker rises

THOMAS LOCKER, the engineering and manufacturing group, raised pre-tax profits from £1.8 million to £3.5 million in the year to March 31, on sales up from £41.2 million to £64.5 million. Earnings per share rose from 1.81p to 2.91p and the total dividend rises from 0.9p to 1.0p. Phil Garside, chairman, said: "Current trading is in line with expectations and we are optimistic that the benefits of the initiatives made during 1996-97 will continue to be evident during the coming year."

O&M buys in Taiwan

OGILVY & MATHER, a subsidiary of WPP Group, the UK advertising agency, has agreed to buy Team-Mate Marketing Development & Services, a sales promotion company based in Taiwan, and its subsidiary, Response Marketing Development & Services, for up to £50.66 million Taiwanese dollars (about £3.4 million). Team-Mate reported pre-tax profits of £38.3 million in 1996. Net assets were £26.7 million at the year end.

AlMidani cuts stake

AMER ALMIDANI, the secretive non-executive director of Manchester United, yesterday cut his stake in the quoted football club to just 0.33 per cent, raising £2.45 million. Mr AlMidani has been gradually reducing his interest in the club since it was floated five years ago. However, United said there was no question of Mr AlMidani leaving the board in the near future.

R-R wins \$700m order

ROLLS-ROYCE AEROSPACE has won a \$700 million order for Tay engines from Gulfstream, the US manufacturer of executive jets, it was announced at the Paris Air Show yesterday. The engines will be fitted on to Grumman Gulfstream IV-SP corporate jets. Deliveries are scheduled through to 2003. The order lifted to \$1.3 billion the total amount of business secured since the start of the show last weekend.

Win or lose with change?

Maurice Fitzpatrick looks at trying to integrate income tax and national insurance contributions

THE integration of income tax and national insurance contributions (NIC) has long been mooted as a way of simplifying the UK's horrendously complicated tax system. The commission, established under Martin Taylor by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to look at reforming tax and benefits, may well examine the integration of tax and NIC. Meanwhile, it is not inconceivable that the Chancellor may make some reference to integration in his Budget on July 2. In view of the advantages, why can't it happen tomorrow?

The answer is that there are significant political difficulties. The integration of two disparate systems would create millions of losers: the losers would complain far louder than the gainers would show gratitude. To get a handle on the problems of integration, let us examine the present regime.

Income tax. This is chargeable at 20 per cent on the first £4,100 taxable income, 23 per cent on the next £22,000, and 40 per cent on taxable income over £26,100. A personal allowance of (normally) £4,045 is deducted from gross income in arriving at taxable income.

In the hands of a basic rate taxpayer, dividends and interest are taxed at 20 per cent, with such income being regarded as the top slice of income. According to Treasury figures, the full-year yield of raising the basic rate of

income tax by 1p in the pound is £1.9 billion. Of the UK's 26 million taxpayers, seven million have a marginal rate of tax (MRT) of 20 per cent, 16.5 million have an MRT of 23 per cent, and 2.5 million pay tax at 40 per cent. People aged 65 or more represent a group on whom integration could fall heavily: of the 9.3 million in this group 6.2 million pay no tax, 1.75 million have an MRT of 20 per cent, 1.2 million have an MRT of 23 per cent and 50,000 pay tax at 40 per cent. NIC: Employees earning up to £3,224 a year pay no employee NIC. For those earning £3,224 plus, employee NIC is levied at (broadly) 2 per cent on the first £3,224 of earnings, and 10 per cent on the next £20,956. Earnings above £24,180 attract no further NIC. The self-employed pay a flat rate of £6.15 per week together with class 4 NIC at 6 per cent on assessable profits between £7,010 and £24,180 a year.

Employer NIC is levied separately, and would remain even after income tax and "individuals' NIC" had been integrated. Employer NIC raises about £27 billion a year. How the NIC and income tax systems might be integrated: The most straightforward method would be to abolish "all individuals' NIC" and to raise an equivalent amount of revenue by increasing the basic rate of income tax from 23p to 37p. Such is the difference in tax bases, as between tax and NIC, that only a small



Maurice Fitzpatrick says action would require courage

percentage of taxpayers would be unaffected by integration in this way. Of the UK's 26 million income taxpayers, the 19 million with an MRT of 23 per cent or 40 per cent would all be affected: of the seven million with an MRT of 20 per cent, none would lose, while all those within this group who currently pay NIC (some five million) would gain. Overall, some 24 million taxpayers would be affected. We estimate that about ten million would lose, with the other 14 million gaining.

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Winners and losers: There is no straightforward way of identifying the precise winners and losers since there are so many variables. To look first at the 9.3 million people aged 65 or over, the strategy of recouping all the current NIC yield from basic rate tax ensures that only some 1.35 million (better off) members of this age group lose. Of those aged under 65, the losers will include most employees earning more than £22,050 a year: an employee earning £30,145 or more could lose £920 a year. The self-employed will tend to lose once earnings exceed around £13,000 a year.

Winners will tend to be those in the lower income scale, with an employee earning £8,145 gaining some £550 a year. For the majority of taxpayers falling between, say, income of £8,000 and £30,000, the question of whether they are winners or losers will be determined by an interaction of such variables as total income, whether they are employed or self-employed, whether as employees they receive fringe benefits, and whether they pay pension contributions.

Conclusion: Integration would create millions of losers who would be far more vociferous in their protests than would be the winners in their gratitude. Indeed, the silence of the latter would probably be deafening. Integration ought to happen — the current system is madness — but it seems to me that only a government that is very popular, or very courageous, is going to grasp the nettle. The author is head of economics at Chantrey Vellacott

Scots faced with an educational dilemma

THE Scots have always been proud of their educational system. And speaking as one of its products I have to be very careful what I say here. It is argued that in the mid-to-late 18th century, which saw the education of Burns, Boswell and Scott, for example, literacy levels in lowlands Scotland were at a height still not matched across England. This heritage, which brought forth generations of expatriate engineers, politicians and journalists, has clouded the nation's vision ever since.

Hence the dilemma of the Scots ICA. It has an envied name for the quality of its education. It operates on graduate-only entry and those graduates tend to have accountancy degrees. But the process of training has become ever more expensive for the accountancy firms, and as a result small firms have all but given up the idea.

This has taken away the feeling of natural growth in the accountancy profession north of the border. The regeneration of the profession and the practice of the skills being handed down from partner to student — which has always been particularly strong in Scotland because of the tradition of practitioners training students — has become diluted.

Even worse, in the eyes of the institute, was the fact that those few smaller firms which continue to train students now tend to avoid the Scottish route altogether and train people for the certified accountancy exams, on the grounds that distanced learning disrupts work less than block-release and so is cheaper.

For the Scots all this is heresy and the stuff of heated arguments in bars after institute functions. One member of council has become famous for his views that graduates lack any common sense and would have difficulty in finding a bus stop let alone an error in someone's accounts.

But it is not only the smaller firms that are training people for the certified exams. The large firms are, too. So for some time there has been pressure on the institute to come up with a solution. Added to this is the trend for people to believe that the high ideals of graduate-only entry to the accountancy profession are proving outdated. We are seeing the last generation of people who entered accountancy training straight from school reach maturity. "It worked for me, why shouldn't it work for today's youngsters?" is their call.

As a result the Scots institute has come up with proposals to create a simpler second-tier qualification. This would, in the words of

Archie Hunter, the president, "produce well-qualified, licentiate accountants, with knowledge and understanding to underpin basic competences".

The idea of a licentiate is not new. Back in 1969, when the profession sought a merger of its six accounting bodies, the plan was for three streams of chartered accountants: public practice, business and commerce and public service. There would have been a secondary qualification of licentiates. It could be said that ever since the collapse of those merger efforts in 1970 the profession has been seeking to recreate the proposals through other mechanisms.

But you cannot step directly into a new training idea without standing on someone else's toes. The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) is already bristling at the defection of the certified accountants who decided that running their own scheme would be highly lucrative, particularly with their overseas students. The Scots proposals also damage the standing of the AAT. But people should not get too worked up about it. The AAT scheme never worked well in Scotland and it may be that the institute can run its proposed licentiate scheme at least partly through the AAT.

But the more interesting point about the Scots' new scheme is what it says about the profession. As one critic put it last week: "The economics of hamburgers apply to the accountancy profession." Market forces bring the pressure. The reason why accountancy training is so expensive is because it is a quality product, the institutes will argue.

But others argue that they have simply priced themselves out of the market. The reason firms of Scots accountants do not train people for their own exams is because training people as certified accountants is much cheaper.

And it could be argued, particularly if you extended the argument to the English ICA, that one of the reasons why the qualification is so expensive is because institutes and their secretaries are not going to reform themselves. Wastage and complacency will remain. As one observer rather cruelly put it: "Pigs don't clean out their own sty." But in the end it is the change in Scottish education that has brought this about. Taking decisions based on a belief in an educational heritage that is no longer intact has brought about decline. The Scots ICA proposals seek to deal with the current realities. But in doing so they will also have to cope with people who are unhappy at having their complacency exposed.



ROBERT BRUCE

Fostering hopes of making mark

MANAGEMENT accountants are rarely controversial. Their passion may rise, but usually it is only about something arcane, like zero-rated budgeting. No one has told Michael Foster this. Not content with finding himself elected as Labour Member of Parliament for Worcester, he has also managed to come top of the poll for introducing a Private Member's Bill. And

has the good member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants suggested a new law on activity-based costing? Not a bit of it. He wants to ban foxhunting.

Advice in a flash

TAX practitioners were taken aback this week when the rumours that Gordon Brown, as Chancellor of the Exchequer,

was intent on publishing the Finance Bill immediately after the Budget debate turned out to be true. In the past there has always been a six-week gap between Budget and Bill. But this sudden arrival of urgency in the tax calendar has not upset practitioners. "It will be quite helpful not to have to wait so long before advising clients on what they should do," said one.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Saddle-sore Spence THE lad for becoming leaner and fitter continues at Grant Thornton. Last week David Spence, who will be Scots ICA president next year and is considered almost unrecognisable since starting his weight-loss programme, led some 70 staff on the London to Brighton charity bike ride last weekend. He personally raised more

than £6,000 for the British Heart Foundation despite having to walk up the last and steepest hill.

But he had his own marathon later. The same day he was due in Edinburgh for a dinner in his honour to mark his retirement as head of the profession's ethics committee. Only deft work with the Heathrow schedules, and a useful shower in between, allowed him to make a saddle-sore speech of farewell.

ROBERT BRUCE

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

107	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499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TRADE INDEMNITY
Trade in confidence. Trade indemnity.

The height of
cleverness is to be
able to conceal it.

Don't let it Rock your boat.

Call 01454 204 104
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TRADE INDEMNITY

OIL & GAS			
138*	11.2% Ashok Group	131	4 1.9
154	2.2% Almaria Res		
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154	123% Industrial Park	141%	3.2
155	96% UP Land	123%	5.6
253	744% Wares	226%	6.9
255	308 Hamford	250	4.3
99	88% White	94%	
22	71% Wherry; Mfg	71%	
159	81% Wood John D	142	15 2.6

RETAILERS: FOOD

TRANSPORT				
352	1694	As London:	217:	3.8
4129	321	All Regions Ar	391	0.4
1199	564	Accot. Fr Ports:	385	1:
1622	124	Acc. Europe:	135	3.0
5933	477	BAW:	565	10:
7639	583	Bz Airtransport:	712	4:
155		General Tgn B	84	
1124	89	Charlton (H)	100	5
1621	120	Chesport Ops	139:	4.3

1997		Stock	Price £
High	Low		
SUMOTS (under 5 years)			

BRITISH FUNDS					
+/-	1st yld %	Gross yld	1997		5
			High	Low	
			123 ¹⁰	119 ¹⁰	1
			111 ¹⁰	105 ¹⁰	1

	Price £	+/-	Int. yield %	6m
114% 2003-07	120 1/2	- 1/2	9.73	7
115% 2007	102 1/2	- 1/2	7.77	7

RETAILERS, GENERAL			
212*	172*	197*	1*
228*	174*	211*	3*
230	200*	236*	1 14

505	435	Sonnet	437	1	13
581	589	Steppach	577	2	14
142	86	TLS	153	1	14
65	574	Telnet & Trn	577	2	37
208	174	TUG	176	6	67
84	66	Ugland	80	3	34
1024	85	Uld Games	96	4	44

100%	100%	Trans 7% 1997	100%
101%	100%	Trans 84% 1997	100%
106%	100%	Each 15% 1997	102%
103%	101%	Each 94% 1998	107%
931%	100%	Trans 74% 1996	100%
110%	100%	Trans 14% 1996-97	100%
1142%	100%	Trans 157% 1998	1101%

100%	101	1
99%	101	1
98%	101	1
97%	101	1
96%	101	1
95%	101	1
94%	101	1
93%	101	1
92%	101	1
91%	101	1
90%	101	1
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88%	101	1
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82%	101	1
81%	101	1
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16%	101	1
15%	101	1
14%	101	1
13%	101	1
12%	101	1
11%	101	1
10%	101	1
9%	101	1
8%	101	1
7%	101	1
6%	101	1
5%	101	1
4%	101	1
3%	101	1
2%	101	1
1%	101	1
0%	101	1

8% 2009	106 ²⁷	- ²⁷	7.52	7
8% 2010	81 ²	- ²	5.82	7
8% 2011	115 ²⁷	- ²⁷	7.79	7
8% 2012	118 ²	- ²	7.76	7

199	70% Justice (Canada)	245	3.3
256	300% Austin Heale	150	1.5
157	141% Bontas (J)	147	1.5
161	121% Bontas	89	4.9
123	68% Bontas	499	8.2
552	366% Black. Luc	162	6.4
208	161% Rocky Shop	721	14
761	587% Bontas	16	1
16	17% Brown & Jackson		

700	57.7%	Anglian	647.7%	-	7	6.9
791	201	East Surrey	790.7%	-	9	5.3
862.4	794	Hyder	793.7%	-	14	7.2
111.1	101.1%	Hydes Cn Ptd	109.7%	-	4	9.3
640	53.4%	Mid Kent Hops	585	-	-	6.6
79.7	665	Barnes Transit	735.7%	-	-	6.2
29.8	2785	South Straits	2800	-	-	3.9
734.7	596.5	South West	672.7%	-	6	6.8

102 ^{ns}	102 ^{ns}	Each 12% 1997	103 ^{ns}
171 ^{ns}	105 ^{ns}	Each 12% 1998	106 ^{ns}
108 ^{ns}	106 ^{ns}	Trans 10% 1999	106 ^{ns}
90 ^{ns}	95 ^{ns}	Trans 6% 1998	90 ^{ns}
118 ^{ns}	109 ^{ns}	Conv 10% 1999	107 ^{ns}
106 ^{ns}	104 ^{ns}	Conv 6% 2000	106 ^{ns}
104 ^{ns}	165 ^{ns}	Trans 8% 2000	102 ^{ns}
119 ^{ns}	118 ^{ns}	Trans 13% 2000	118 ^{ns}
127 ^{ns}	89 ^{ns}	Trans 4.6% 2004	109 ^{ns}

	9.10	8.94	100%	100%
- %	11.28	6.95	106	98
- %	9.88	8.85	109	101
- %	6.10	8.94	117	103
- %	0.57	7.80	111	121
- %	8.59	7.00		
- %	7.77	7.83		
- %	11.20	7.00		
- %		7.00		

UPDATED

% 2013	107 th	-	7.46	7
% 74% 2012-15	104 th	-	7.41	7
% 2015	109 th	-	7.40	7
% 2017	115 th	-	7.55	7
% 2021	109 th	-	7.33	7

182*	434*	Capetown	456:-	13	5.2
624*	331*	Christmas Isl	303:-	1	2.0
323*	470	Church	40:-	24	4.2
550	56*	Clinton Card	79:-	4	3.2
86*	65	C'v Lizards	127:-	3	1.7
132*	517*	Faust, Fishwh	578	5	0.7
570	502*	DFS furniture	601:-	14	2.2
656	462	Blomse Gey	519	5	2.1
551		Brang	36		

494:	344% (Wessex)	396:	-	50
389	325 (Yorkshire)	366	-	6.3

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKE

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

122 ⁺	108 ⁺	Taxes 94% 2002	111 ⁺
105 ⁺	102 ⁺	Taxes 9% 2002	104 ⁺

INDEX-LINKED on p	114%	113%	2
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LN 3%	40%	- 1/2	7.23
LN 2%	33%	- 1/2	7.38
LN 1%	53%	- 1/2	7.47

ected initiation of:			10%	5
LN 4% 1998	114	- 1/2	10%	2

102%	59% Escap. Furni	74%	1	60
137	120 Blunt	129%		12
313%	237% Fine Art Devl	290%		71
195%	112% First Earth	195%		15
375%	177% Flying Hw. U.S.	370%	4	14
149%	70% Formidist	122%	7%	26
345	267 French Comm	303%	17	11
63%	46% Greece	50		38
408%	70% Geographical Ent	140%	4	26

210:	171	Cable News	1974	15
230:	153:	Country Club	215	5 89
262:	207	Overton Hosp	210	5 49
51:	36	Prospex	268	4
97:	88:	McGillomach	97	1 03
65	33:	Almory Corp	41:	
590	285	Prism Rail	285	
1,355	545	Parsons Egypt	1052:	01
283	919:	Southern Amer.	736:	14 31

10%	10%	Result 11/2/2000-6/4/2001	11/2/2001
87%	82%	Fund 31% 1999-04	86%
114%	109%	Comp 91% 2004	113%
99%	94%	Trans 64% 2004	98%
105%	104%	Years 61% 2005	100%
122%	110%	Comp 91% 2005	113%
122%	124%	Trans 121% 2003-05	127%
103%	99%	Trans 74% 2006	102%

100%	100%	100%	100%
4.04	5.91	120 ³²	117 ³⁰
8.38	7.13	185 ³²	180
6.88	7.08	176 ³²	170 ³²
7.63	7.14	183 ³²	175 ³²
8.34	7.14	150 ³²	144 ³²
9.84	7.16	161 ³²	153 ³²
7.23	7.15	164 ³²	147 ³²

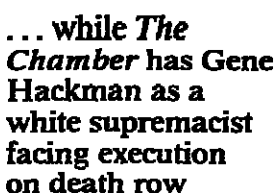
R.L. 2% 2004	117%	-	$\pi_{2\%}$	3.28	3
R.L. 2% 2006	191%	-	$\pi_{2\%}$	3.32	3
R.L. 2% 2008	171%	-	$\pi_{2\%}$	3.39	3
R.L. 2% 2011	178%	-	$\pi_{2\%}$	3.43	3
R.L. 2% 2013	186%	-	$\pi_{2\%}$	3.47	3
R.L. 2% 2015	156%	-	$\pi_{2\%}$	3.49	3
R.L. 2% 2020	149%	-1%	$\pi_{2\%}$	3.55	3

313*	231*	H&C Farmington	252	2	20
401*	265*	Hawleys	265	3	42
67*	60*	Hampden Gap	67		43
181*	126	Hon of Fraser	162	4	42
96*	70*	Hughes (T/I)	91		40
532	268	J&J Sports	425	4	12
741	622*	Kingsborough	716	5	33
309*	130	Kingsbury Gap	156	10	30

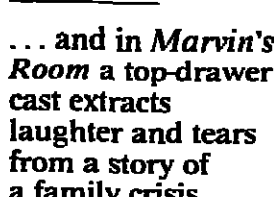
Source: ITT Information.

[illegible]

	11/14/12	11/14/13	01/06/14	01/06/15	01/06/16	01/06/17	01/06/18	01/06/19	01/06/20	01/06/21	01/06/22	01/06/23	01/06/24	01/06/25	01/06/26	01/06/27	01/06/28	01/06/29	01/06/30	01/06/31	01/06/32	01/06/33	01/06/34	01/06/35	01/06/36	01/06/37	01/06/38	01/06/39	01/06/40	01/06/41	01/06/42	01/06/43	01/06/44	01/06/45	01/06/46	01/06/47	01/06/48	01/06/49	01/06/50	01/06/51	01/06/52	01/06/53	01/06/54	01/06/55	01/06/56	01/06/57	01/06/58	01/06/59	01/06/60	01/06/61	01/06/62	01/06/63	01/06/64	01/06/65	01/06/66	01/06/67	01/06/68	01/06/69	01/06/70	01/06/71	01/06/72	01/06/73	01/06/74	01/06/75	01/06/76	01/06/77	01/06/78	01/06/79	01/06/80	01/06/81	01/06/82	01/06/83	01/06/84	01/06/85	01/06/86	01/06/87	01/06/88	01/06/89	01/06/90	01/06/91	01/06/92	01/06/93	01/06/94	01/06/95	01/06/96	01/06/97	01/06/98	01/06/99	01/06/100	01/06/101	01/06/102	01/06/103	01/06/104	01/06/105	01/06/106	01/06/107	01/06/108	01/06/109	01/06/110	01/06/111	01/06/112	01/06/113	01/06/114	01/06/115	01/06/116	01/06/117	01/06/118	01/06/119	01/06/120	01/06/121	01/06/122	01/06/123	01/06/124	01/06/125	01/06/126	01/06/127	01/06/128	01/06/129	01/06/130	01/06/131	01/06/132	01/06/133	01/06/134	01/06/135	01/06/136	01/06/137	01/06/138	01/06/139	01/06/140	01/06/141	01/06/142	01/06/143	01/06/144	01/06/145	01/06/146	01/06/147	01/06/148	01/06/149	01/06/150	01/06/151	01/06/152	01/06/153	01/06/154	01/06/155	01/06/156	01/06/157	01/06/158	01/06/159	01/06/160	01/06/161	01/06/162	01/06/163	01/06/164	01/06/165	01/06/166	01/06/167	01/06/168	01/06/169	01/06/170	01/06/171	01/06/172	01/06/173	01/06/174	01/06/175	01/06/176	01/06/177	01/06/178	01/06/179	01/06/180	01/06/181	01/06/182	01/06/183	01/06/184	01/06/185	01/06/186	01/06/187	01/06/188	01/06/189	01/06/190	01/06/191	01/06/192	01/06/193	01/06/194	01/06/195	01/06/196	01/06/197	01/06/198	01/06/199	01/06/200	01/06/201	01/06/202	01/06/203	01/06/204	01/06/205	01/06/206	01/06/207	01/06/208	01/06/209	01/06/210	01/06/211	01/06/212	01/06/213	01/06/214	01/06/215	01/06/216	01/06/217	01/06/218	01/06/219	01/06/220	01/06/221	01/06/222	01/06/223	01/06/224	01/06/225	01/06/226	01/06/227	01/06/228	01/06/229	01/06/230	01/06/231	01/06/232	01/06/233	01/06/234	01/06/235	01/06/236	01/06/237	01/06/238	01/06/239	01/06/240	01/06/241	01/06/242	01/06/243	01/06/244	01/06/245	01/06/246	01/06/247	01/06/248	01/06/249	01/06/250	01/06/251	01/06/252	01/06/253	01/06/254	01/06/255	01/06/256	01/06/257	01/06/258	01/06/259	01/06/260	01/06/261	01/06/262	01/06/263	01/06/264	01/06/265	01/06/266	01/06/267	01/06/268	01/06/269	01/06/270	01/06/271	01/06/272	01/06/273	01/06/274	01/06/275	01/06/276	01/06/277	01/06/278	01/06/279	01/06/280	01/06/281	01/06/282	01/06/283	01/06/284	01/06/285	01/06/286	01/06/287	01/06/288	01/06/289	01/06/290	01/06/291	01/06/292	01/06/293	01/06/294	01/06/295	01/06/296	01/06/297	01/06/298	01/06/299	01/06/300	01/06/301	01/06/302	01/06/303	01/06/304	01/06/305	01/06/306	01/06/307	01/06/308	01/06/30
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Light relief
comes from *Private*
Parts, a genial
self-portrait of
the talk radio
star Howard Stern



Hollywood hoist with its own petard



**"FUNNY AND TOUCHING,
A FILM OF RARE AND
HAUNTING MAGIC.
DIANE KEATON PERFORMS
WITH DAZZLING HUMOUR."**
ROLLING STONE

**"I PROMISE 'MARVIN'S ROOM'
WILL MAKE YOU LAUGH...
WHAT A CAST!"**
GOOD MORNING AMERICA

**"MERYL STREEP AND
DIANE KEATON ARE ALONE WORTH THE
PRICE OF ADMISSION.
DON'T MISS IT!"**
NEW YORK OBSERVER

MERYL STREEP LEONARDO DiCAPRIO DIANE KEATON and ROBERT DE NIRO

MARVIN'S ROOM¹²

MIRAMAX INTERNATIONAL present SCOTT RUDIN / TORRECA executive producer

MERYL STREEP LEONARDO DiCAPRIO DIANE KEATON ROBERT DE NIRO HELEN GARDNER GWYNETH HUGHES
"MARVIN'S ROOM" PAUL SCARFONDO executive producer BRUCE POKRIAN JIM CLARK executive producer DAVID GROPMAN
executive producer PETER SCHONCINSKY executive producer DAVID WISNIEVSKY ADAM SCHROEDER executive producer SCOTT MCPHERSON executive producer
SCOTT RUDIN JANE ROSENTHAL ROBERT DENIRO executive producer JERRY ZILKS

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DIRECTED BY JAMES L. BROOKS

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271 727 7692

CHELSEA CINEMA
706 KING'S ROAD 0171-3513742

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CHOICE 1

From Beethoven to Bram Stoker, the City of London Festival has it all

VENUE: At various venues, from today

CHOICE 2

A musical version of Elvis Presley's life opens in the West End tonight

VENUE: At the Piccadilly Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Niamh Cusack has a servile leading role as one of *The Maids* in Genet's drama

VENUE: Now previewing at the Donmar Warehouse

FESTIVAL

David Bower, Hugh Grant's brother in *Four Weddings*, brings his talents to Nottingham

An actor deaf to praise

David Bower is more excited about a Nottingham festival than his famous film. Daniel Rosenthal reports



Signing siblings: Hugh Grant and David Bower in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*

Among the hundreds of performers involved in the Visibility arts festival which kicks off in Nottingham this Saturday, the deaf actor David Bower is the only one whose face is known to millions of filmgoers.

His wonderful, understated performance as Hugh Grant's brother provided some of the funniest moments in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (remember Grant offering Andy McDowell an alternative translation of his sibling's sign language for "Didn't you sleep with her?"). And his week in Nottingham is likely to bring a few more "I'm sure I recognise you" approaches from strangers: a small price to pay for appearing in the most successful British film of all time.

He enjoys recalling his *Four Weddings* experiences, from the "terrifying" audition to the Leicester Square premiere hijacked by Liz Hurley's dress. But he is most animated when discussing the shows that he and the other members of Common Ground Sign Dance Theatre are taking to Nottingham.

"Common Ground is the only company in Britain in which deaf and hearing actors and dancers regularly work together," he explains (unlike David, his *Four Weddings* character, spoken English rather than signing is his first language). "The company established Sign Dance as a crossover art form in the late Eighties, using sign language to strengthen narrative expression in contemporary dance pieces."

At Visibility, the UK's largest festival of integrated arts (work featuring disabled and non-disabled performers), he is appearing in two Common Ground shows. The first, *Answer Me With Silence*, in which he plays the ghost of an Irish architect, is "both a tale of unrequited love and an

attempt to suggest that men and women — deaf and hearing — could communicate more effectively if they spoke less, rather than more."

The second is called *Ojo Eye Ojo*, a collaboration between Common Ground and two of Europe's leading integrated companies: Barcelona-based BCN Doble Teatro, and Amsterdam's De Wereld Van Diagonaal (*ojo* means eye in Spanish, *ojo* means eye in Dutch for "eye"). Its storyline and choreography, centred, says Bower, "on the theme of human energy", were still being developed.

The Common Ground touring engagements keep the 28-year-old actor away from his home in Liverpool, where the company is based, for about nine months of the year. His personal goal in Nottingham may be the same as at all of them: "I want to ensure that every member of the audience understands everything that's happening on stage, regardless of whether they are hearing or deaf, English or German. That may involve my voice, sign language, mime or dance. It's a bit like being a one-man band — the more 'instruments' I can use the merrier."

Bower was born hearing impaired but could hear "reasonably well" until his mid-twenties. "When I was 15, I went to a really loud rock concert in Liverpool. It was a fantastic gig, but I left with a ringing noise in my ears and it's been there ever since."

"I would have liked to become a musician but my deafness made acting the most logical alternative. The fact that the opportunities for deaf actors are quite limited made me even more determined to break away from the common perception of people with disabilities as being somehow institutionalised."

Aged 17, he went to Bulmershe College, in Reading, to join the innovative theatre for the deaf course run by Daphne Payne, "profoundly deaf herself and a marvellous teacher". After 12 months with Common Ground, he began a six-year spell "in the field", which included parts in student films and the title role in *Gary*, a play about a deaf boy's troubled adolescence which won a Fringe First award at Edinburgh in 1992.

The following year he was appearing in *Children of a Lesser God* at the Derby Playhouse when he received an invitation to try out for *Four Weddings*. He remembers "shaking like a leaf in front of Mike Newell, the director, at the audition, but a fortnight and a screen test later the role was his. There were some frantic journeys up from *Four Weddings* locations in the South to prevent him missing performances in Derby, but the filming itself went smoothly and was 'great fun'.

Meeting Rowan Atkinson, the second wedding's "Father, Son and Holy Goat" vicar, was a particular pleasure. "It was exciting to talk to him about what Mr Bean means to me as a deaf person. He had not realised that Bean is accessible for a deaf audience, and that excited him."

Amazed by the film's worldwide box-office triumph, Bower confesses to being "happy" with his performance, "although it made me realise I have a long way to go with my acting". He has watched himself in it about six times, but the film's various couples may be approaching their ruby anniversaries before he takes another look. "When I'm 65 I'll take it off the shelf again — like a photo album."

Answer Me With Silence, June 24 and 26; Ojo Eye Ojo, June 27. Tickets and venue information for all Visibility events from Nottingham Playhouse 01594 94194.

LONDON

CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL: Three weeks of opera, concerts, recitals, jazz, literary events and films begin today with a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Guildhall Great Hall at 7.30pm. A company of 13 actors and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will integrate Shakespeare's verse with music by Mendelssohn in a production directed by Sue Parrish and conducted by Paul Daniel. Other festival events include a rush-hour Beethoven sing-along quartet and a series of films celebrating 100 years of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

Barbican Centre Box Office 0171-638 9801. Until July 10.

ELVIS — THE MUSICAL: Three actors sing like us through the life of the King, with Michael Duffin playing the mature Elvis. Three-month season. Piccadilly Theatre, W1 (0171-839 1741). Opens tonight, 8pm. Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat 5.30pm and 8pm.

THE MAIDS: Niamh Cusack and Jerry For play the life roles, with Louise Simon as their adored and hated mistress, in Genet's overrated but sometimes compelling drama.

Donmar Warehouse, Euston Road, WC2 0171-269 1723. Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens June 25, 7pm. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 2.30pm. Sun 3pm.

LEEDS: Mami Marquez plays the red-hot hero in *Molere's Don Juan*, transposed by Edward Kemp and

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Moxey

TWILIGHT OF THE GODS

Controversial play from Broadway by Jonathan Tolkin in which a gay opera director (Jason Gould) learns that his secret brother-in-law (Mark Hadfield) has discovered his baby will be gay. Could be about 47 Holy James directs.

Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 0171-439 2132. Opens tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat 8pm, mat 2.30pm. Sun 3pm.

ELSEWHERE

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NEW RELEASES

• **THE ASSOCIATE** (PG). Overlooked Halliwell analysis: over the top. Feisty comedy, with Whoopi Goldberg, Danny Webb. Director: Donald Pate. UCI Whiteleys (0) 090 888550.

• **Virgin Tracodora** 0171-434 0031. Warner West End 0171-437 4243.

JOHNS (18). Sympathetic drama about Los Angeles hustlers, with Lukas Haas and David Arquette. Director: Scott Silver.

ABC Baker Street 0171-935 9772. Metro 0171-437 0751. Ritz 0171-737 2121.

MAMMA ROMA (PG). Pastiche of the uneven but compelling second film (1992), with Anna Magnani as a prostitute who craves respectability.

ICA Cinema 0171-630 3647.

SHADOW CONSPIRACY (15). Charlie Sheen winds out a conspiracy in Washington, laughably bad thriller, with Linda Hamilton and Donald Sutherland. Director: George Cosmatos.

Virgin Tracodora 0171-434 0031. Warner West End 0171-437 4243.

THE SQUARE CIRCLE (15). Mildly interesting indie commercial melodrama about gender confusion. Director: Amir Pakiz.

Carizon West End 0171-389 1722.

CINEMA GUIDE



THEATRE 1
Twigg and Co
strut and simmer
to no great
effect in
Chichester's new
Blithe Spirit



THEATRE 2
... while in
Manchester
Tony Kushner
brings a modern
gloss to Corneille
in *The Illusion*

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1
Simon Rattle
gleefully brings
out the best
in the Orchestra
of the Age of
Enlightenment



MUSIC 2
... while John
Eliot Gardiner
steers the LSO
through vivid
performances of
Stravinsky

THEATRE: Ectoplasm without substance at both the Chichester Festival and in Manchester

Coward's high-flyer lays an egg

As the Chichester programme points out, it was Shelley who gave Noel Coward's play its title with his "hail to thee, blithe spirit, bird thou never wert". That is a slightly unfortunate reminder, for the last thing Tim Luscombe's revival resembles is a light, airy skylark pouring forth memorably magical sounds. This *Blithe Spirit* is very like a bird, but that bird, I fear, is a turkey.

Luscombe was unlucky to lose Maureen Lipman to the surgeons during rehearsals. If she had been able to bring her quirky, gawky humour to the role of the spiritualist, Madame Arcati, perhaps the production would not have remained resolutely grounded. Certainly, one of the evening's problems is that Dora Bryan, the game trouper who substitutes for her, has yet to make full contact with either her lines or her character. But Madame Arcati is not the play's centre, and it is at the centre that the skylark spirit is most obviously missing.

Arcati's function is to conjure up the ghost of the first wife of the novelist Charles Condomine. That is bad news for his second, Ruth, who is already jealous of Elvira's memory. When Charles starts holding heated conversations with what seems to her the empty air, she successively assumes that he is playing infantile games, drunkenly insulting her and going mad. But then flowers start whizzing through the air and expensive pots crashing to the floor; and Ruth is forced to recognise that she has a rather unusual rival in the house.

The opportunities for laughter are pretty evident, and were expertly exploited by Coward. Although *Present Laughter* has its

Blithe Spirit
Chichester

admirers, I don't think he was ever to write so winningly again. Elvira comes from the same family as Amanda in *Private Lives* and Gilda in *Design for Living*. She is sophisticated, wayward, mischievous, even anarchic. Ruth has more in common with the earnest, bossy characters of the early plays, those who try to control others and stifle their fun. In *Blithe Spirit* — hence, if you want to be heavy, the play's importance — they are fighting for the soul of a writer not unlike Coward himself.

But here only Belinda Lang, a strong, svelte Ruth, makes enough of her chances. Steven Pacey's Charles sounds as if he is auditioning for the role of Biggles, and the stiffness and slight blimpishness extends from his period accent to his acting, which lacks Coward's trademark urbanity. And how can he talk of Elvira's maddening fascination and "gay charm"? Tagged out in spectral grey-mauve, Twigg Lawson looks the part; but when she starts striding about the stage, being over-obviously flirtatious or over-obviously angry, you wonder what he means.

Meanwhile, Bryan hops and flutters about in beads and wools, emitting fey whoops and coy gurgles as she does cheerful battle with the text. The performance misses what's hearty and tweedy in Arcati, the bicycling eccentric; but the first-night audience applauded her every exit. Could even Lipman have expected more?

**BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE**



Twigg Lawson (Elvira) and Steven Pacey (Charles) in Tim Luscombe's revival of *Blithe Spirit*

Phantoms of the soap opera

The Illusion
Royal Exchange,
Manchester

THE tragedies of Corneille seldom pop up on British stages, though once in a generation some company decides to see how *Le Cid* looks. His comedies have fared even worse, except for *L'illusion comique*, which has become strangely popular in recent years. Matthew Lloyd's production being the third big revival since 1990.

The play is like a colourful balloon that floats over puzzling countryside and then bursts. A father visits a magician to find out what has happened to his unruly son, vanished from home these ten years or more. The magus calls forth phantoms — don't ask how — and there is the lad, sprightly and courtly, in love with a succession of women who look the same but bear different names, as does he: now Clindor, now (in this version) Callisto, and finally, Theogenes, under which name he deceives his wife, cuckolds his prince and

is fatally stabbed in the vitals. This agitates the old man, and I have to give the game away by explaining that what he has been shown is his son playing different stage roles in his profession as an actor. The father has mixed feelings about this news but off he goes to Paris to be reunited. Corneille, though, gives us no clue as to how the son will respond, since his every speech has been a performance; what kind of fellow

he has become we know not. The play is at the same time complicated and slight. Lope de Vega would have built castles of philosophy, but for Corneille the situations allow a parent to feel parental once more and that's it. There isn't much emphasis even on that. Tony Kushner's free adaptation introduces a new scene and textual changes too numerous to mention. The most significant of these concerns father-child antipathy — for Clindor's variously named lady also has an intransigent dad. He is a real beast in Kushner's Corneille, as are all the older men, but Clindor is given some lines that suggest recovered filial love. The language is vivid enough to convey the agitations of the young lovers in an amusing manner, as is the compulsive plotting of the maid.

Performances, too, are likeable. Julia Sawalha's heroine admits the power of love but can joke about this power, and her gestures intelligently express her altering moods. Peter de Jersey's voice is clear and passionate, and he is heroically good looking as well. Lloyd keeps the movement lively and the hero's father (Trevor Baxter) moves all over the house. But where a modern dramatist might attempt to make the play within the play contrast with what surrounds it, there is no sense of that here. The purpose of the drama is simply to soften hard hearts. The magician is rewarded with the father's tear: trying offering that to a modern playwright or director.

JEREMY KINGSTON

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: An American look at Weill; and a Scottish treat

Broadway's lady in the limelight

MUSICAL

John Higgins

■ WEILL
Lady in the Dark
Stevens/Reardon/Kaye
Sony 7464-62869-2,
£12.49 ***

THE reception for the National Theatre's revival of Kurt Weill's 1941 musical has been respectful rather than rapturous. A little late in the day, Sony offers the chance to hear what the Americans once made of it.

Twenty years after the opening, CBS recorded the songs as a vehicle for Rise Stevens, now on CD for the first time. Her lengthy career as one of the Mer's leading mezzos was coming to a close, but she

knew how to put a number across. With the unnamed orchestra energetically conducted by Lehman Engel, Jenny really swings, and *My Ship*, the score's most original number, has a cool, reflective quality. Adolphe Green zaps out both verses of *Tchikowsky*, and the quality of John Reardon gives cause for regret that Weill paid scant attention to his leading man. Appended are recordings by Danny Kaye, who took a sure step towards fame as a member of the original Broadway cast.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ MUSGRAVE
Clarinet Concerto: The Seasons; Autumn Sonata
Scamers/BBC Scottish SO/Musgrave
Cala CACD 1023, £14.49 ***

THREE important works of the Scottish composer, Thea Musgrave are usefully gathered on this Cala disc under the composer's own baton. The *Clarinet Concerto* dramatises the traditional solo/tutti confrontation by requiring the soloist to move about the orchestra, sparking dialogue and leading concertante groups. The surreal sounds of an accordion add to the nervous edge which

Musgrave so skilfully imparts to her music.

Victoria Soames is a sympathetic advocate of the concerto, rising impressively to its taxing technical demands. If she is less successful in the *Autumn Sonata*, a concerto for the unusual combination of bass clarinet and orchestra, the problem lies, in part, in the conception of the work itself. The high, strenuous writing for the instrument poses an almost superhuman challenge for the executant, and the only real victors here — as in the graphic *The Seasons* — are the excellent BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Musgrave's dynamic direction.

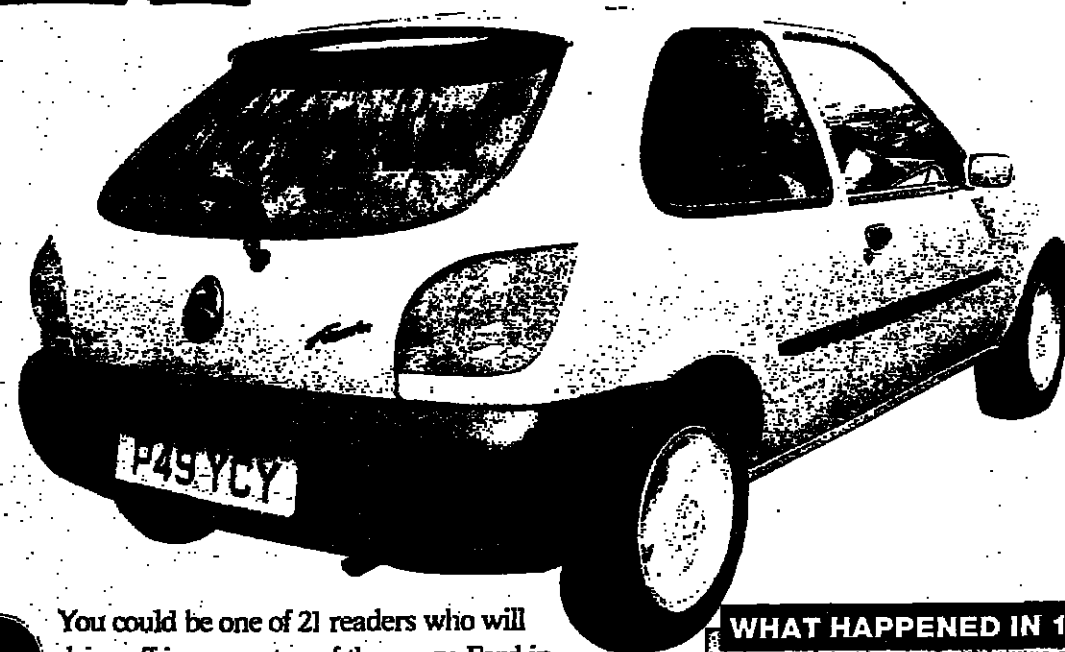
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THE TIMES

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You could be one of 21 readers who will drive off in a new top-of-the-range Ford in the biggest and best car promotion ever. *The Times* prize draw celebrates 21 years of Ford as Britain's favourite car manufacturer by giving you the chance to win one of 21 cars. Included in the many prizes is the Fiesta Ghia 16v, above, with an on the road price of £11,255. This neat, comfortable car, has class-leading driving dynamics and is one of four Fiesta prizes. This model has remote control, LED central double locking, perimeter alarm, electric front windows and a top of the range stereo radio cassette player.

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● The Channel Tunnel is opened by the Queen
● After 20 years of exile, Alexander Solzhenitsyn returns to Russia
● The National Lottery is launched
● Fred West is charged with the murder of eight women

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CHANGING TIMES

Asa Briggs enjoys the unusual tale of a Victorian master thief who detested violence and loved Gainsborough's duchess

Not quite so elementary, Watson

THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME

By Ben Macintyre
Harper Collins, £18
ISBN 0 00 255824 6

This well-researched and lively account of a 19th-century international master criminal, Adam Worth, German-born, a man with many aliases, is at the same time a perceptive study of the fortunes of a famous late-18th-century painting, Gainsborough's *Duchess of Devonshire*, Georgian daughter of Earl Spencer. For more than 20 years it was in the possession of Worth, who stole it from Agnew's in 1876. "It is very rarely," wrote *The Times*, "that robbery of valuable paintings in this way has ever been attempted, and rarely, if ever, without discovery in the end."

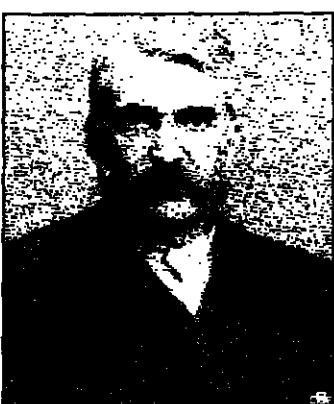
The Gainsborough was never discovered. Instead, Worth arranged in Chicago for its return to London in 1901 after protracted negotiations. His friend and fellow criminal, Eddie Guerin, thought it was the worst deal Worth ever made. Yet he was almost as fascinated by the glamour of the picture as Worth himself. "The sudden return to town of Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire has caused nearly as great a sensation as if the beautiful Georgiana had come back to life,

with a fresh lease of life and beauty."

The painting did not stay in England for long. It was very quickly acquired by J. Pierpont Morgan, fresh from the biggest of all financial deals, the setting up of the United States Steel Corporation. His father, Junius Spencer Morgan, had been prevented from completing Georgiana's purchase in 1876 when Worth "eloped" with her. The decisive Agnew's deal was engineered by Worth and by the detective William Pinkerton, son of another famous father, whose curious relationship crossed the blurred dividing lines separating criminals and detectives. It was

after discovering an impressive bundle of dusty Pinkerton files in Los Angeles that Macintyre decided to investigate the mystifying case for himself. One tantalisingly incomplete American newspaper cutting began: "If a fiction writer could conceive such a story, he might well hesitate to write it for fear of being accused of using the wildly improbable". Macintyre set out to tell the story as history, not as fiction, finding out far more than any journalist or detective ever knew.

Worth already had a formidable criminal past before he stole Georgiana. It is now uncovered. It was outstanding in its boldness and its scale, and even after the theft of the painting there was far more to come on both sides of the Channel and the Atlantic. Appropriately it was *The Times* in April 1901 that commented that the "authentic history" of the painting "during the last quarter of a century will probably, and for very



Worth: inspired Conan Doyle?

obvious reasons, never be disclosed — except by highly imaginative writers". Macintyre is highly imaginative — sometimes to such an extent that he seems to be overstretching his evidence.

Yet he has other qualities that pin him down, including an appe-

lite for fact, assiduity, and wit. He is less interested in the man or in the picture (which made its way back to Chatsworth in 1994) than he is in the bizarre relationship between the two, which the Pinkertons — tangled in their own, curious relationship with Worth — never fathomed. For Worth, Georgiana on canvas became a fetish, "representing the pinnacle of his dreams and the evidence of his exclusion" from a high society which attracted and repelled him. He would have found it even more interesting to confess to Macintyre than he did to open his soul to Pinkerton.

If Worth was a "Napoleon of crime", he had more scruples than the real Napoleon. He avoided "strong drink" until his life had collapsed. He rejected violence, except on one occasion when he was betrayed. What he shared with Napoleon, apart from smallness of stature, was "restless ambition". He never knew when to

stop his highly organised sequence of crimes. He also had a dynastic sense which he had less opportunity to cultivate. Curiously, in the light of recent history, it was the Belgian police, not the British, who eventually cornered him, a story told in two excellent chapters, "Worth's Waterloo" and "The Trial". In reply to police questioning he once replied that if they "knew the truth" he would be "put away in prison for eternity". Worth recanted the words in court, but his recantation did not save him from a prison sentence so wide in its ramifications that he lost the respectable wife he had recently married — she was seduced by a treacherous henchman and went mad — and eventually decided to return Georgiana.

As Macintyre properly notes, anyone who achieved distinction in "Victorian times" became "by cliché the Napoleon of Something". (When did the cliché wear out?) He is the organiser of half

that is evil and nearly all that is undetected in this great city." Macintyre's identification of Worth and Moriarty seems less convincing than most of his other conjectures. Conan Doyle drew on his imagination. Where in Worth was the "abstract thinker"?

There is, of course, ample scope for abstract thought in a biography of Worth, as Macintyre demonstrates. "The Victorians" — and Macintyre generalises about them too easily — liked to talk of the relationship between the good and the true. This biography is about the relationship between the bad and the true. It makes the reader think. Most of the characters in this book, detectives as well of criminals, are well of criminals, too, with journalists thrown in too, even the expansion of the most significant evidence about themselves. Even the painting raises questions of truth. X-rays revealed an earlier hat beneath the duchess's ostrich feather extravaganza. It is the earlier hat, not the fashionable hat, that "points to an origin in Gainsborough's studio".

Bond between man and beast

Roger Scruton on the horse's need for humankind

Although the cheetah can move faster than the horse, it can sustain its top speed for only 15 seconds, so great is the strain. The horse, however, can sustain a 40mph gallop for ten minutes, can average 25 mph for half an hour, while jumping high in the air over obstacles and carrying a man on its back, can cover vast tracts of country at a sustained canter, and can produce all this energy from eating grass — the lowest-grade diet on offer, the dregs of vegetation that other species refuse.

What explains the existence, the nature and the survival of such a creature?

The answer, according to Stephen Budiansky in this lucid and passionate account of his favourite animal, is the miraculous relation between horse and man.

Although there are equids like the zebra surviving in the special conditions that obtain in sub-Saharan Africa, the horse as we know him is a species rescued from extinction by human need and sympathy.

In telling the story Budiansky draws on the findings of Darwinian ethology, biology, sociology, the psychology of perception, archaeology, and every peripheral science that touches on "the miracle of the horse". He also evokes knowledge drawn from riding and foxhunting in the state of Virginia — and shows that his passion for the species derives less from scientific curiosity than from gratitude.

Budiansky makes a very plausible case for the story that he tells, and therefore for the Darwinian theory of evolution on which it depends. The size and speed of the horse, he argues, ought to surprise us. Length of leg is not enough. The complex system of tendons, which conserve the energy expended with each step and use it as a spring to launch the next one, is equally important. Furthermore, Budiansky explains, while the volume and weight of an animal increase by the cube of its height, the cross-section of its limbs — and, therefore, the strength of its bone — increases by only the square of its height. The bigger the animal, therefore, the more friable will be its bones.

From these and many similar facts Budiansky concludes that the horse is about as large and fast as its mechanism permits, and also that no other mechanism could give rise to such prodigies of locomotion. Although we have been tinkering with the result for 6,000 years, the mechanism was already perfected when man and horse first entered the relation which was to be so vital to the survival of one, if not both, of them.

Here is where the beautiful story really begins. The abundant fossil evidence shows that the northern horse was, at the end of the last Ice Age, perfectly adapted to an evolutionary niche that was about to disappear. As the climate warmed and forests overtook



Rescued from extinction by the first who had the courage to leap on its back: the modern horse evolved at the end of the last Ice Age just as its evolutionary niche was disappearing

the open grasslands, the herds were driven eastward, vanishing from the British Isles and from France and Spain, where they had been depicted in our Neanderthal cave paintings. Eventually nothing remained to save the grasslands of Ukraine and Central Asia. It is there that the horse was tamed, and so rescued from almost certain extinction by an act of human daring that has few, if any, parallels in the history of our species, when someone chose to mount the back of the fastest of animals and endeavoured against the odds to stay there.

Budiansky shows how the unique social attitudes of horses have enabled them to live side by side with humankind, and how the emerging

dependency that tied our species together enabled the horse to survive and flourish long after its niche had been abolished by the climate. From the beginning of the relationship the horse has been a sacred animal — and one of the two lacunae in this inspiring book is its failure to explore the religious history and identity of this animal who was rejected by evolution to be rescued as a god.

The other lacuna is more significant. Budiansky belongs to those popular exponents of science who are more interested in explaining mysteries than evoking them. Therefore he neglects the wonderful imaginative literature dedicated to his favourite animal, and the centuries of effort that have been devoted to ennobling him in poetry, art

and music. This is regrettable, for time is running out for the horse. Those like Budiansky who have had the privilege of hunting on horseback know what a deep bond has grown from such activities and how vital they are to the blood brotherhood that ties our species. But hunting is now threatened by a tide of ignorant sentimentality, and we may soon stand in need of the fitting tribute which will help us to remember what the horse really was, in the days when we were permitted to love him fully.

Those reservations aside, I recommend this book not merely as the perfect gift for the few horse-lovers who see the point of reading, but as the most lucid introduction to Darwinian ethology that I have come across.

As you inspect the leftovers in your fridge and muse on how to assemble the next meal, your intelligence is on the line. Whereas lesser brains function in a genetic straitjacket, Calvin argues that the more intelligent can extemporise from one situation to the next and thus "muddle through" when the "crunch" comes, be it an Ice Age or the early closure of the corner shop.

Such freeing up of increasingly sophisticated brains from the tyranny of DNA is not a new idea, nor is the contribution of human language to the uniqueness of our species. Yet Calvin offers a balanced and interesting discussion on the issues of a "protolanguage" that we seem to share with other primates, namely the rudimentary use of particular symbols, as distinct from the far more taxing task of constructing meaningful sentences. Along with sentence construction, the argument runs, one can pass from mere labels to whole stories; and then one can plan ahead. Liberated from the present moment, we are thus at a huge advantage to even those primates who can express themselves by manipulating plastic letters or computer icons.

The idea of sentence construction inspires Calvin to turn a principle of evolution into two for the price of one. If we were developing skills to structure and order words, then an analogous structuring and ordering of actions could also be bootstrapped on, or vice versa. Hence increasingly skilled movements would go hand in hand with more elaborate verbal relations. In both cases a "structured string". The idea of such structured strings of mental activity leads Calvin to generalise still further from words and movements to abstract ideas, "memories and sensations". In all cases, objects, actions and ideas are subsumed under the slightly misleading term of "cerebral code"; when and into what would they be decoded?

Two for the price of one

In any case, Calvin suggests that these "codes" have their physical infrastructure in neuronal assemblies. Such an idea is far from new. The concept of neuronal assemblies has already fired the imagination of a range of philosophers, psychologists and physiologists, starting with the "neuronal pools" of Sherrington in the first half of this century. Nor is the idea that such neuronal assemblies might operate

Susan Greenfield

HOW BRAINS THINK
Evolving Intelligence,
Then and Now

By William H. Calvin
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £11.99
ISBN 0 297 81638 X

along Darwinian principles particularly novel: Gerald Edelman has already used the theme to develop a scheme that is admittedly less than totally satisfying, while Amiram Grinvald has harnessed imaging techniques to demonstrate directly the type of arm-wrestling between neuronal assemblies that Calvin proposes.

The essence of this push and shove between congregations of neurons is that they are highly dynamic in size. A group of neurons would expand owing to "copying" themselves in good Darwinian fashion, actually "cloning" themselves as they temporarily buy up all the appropriate cerebral real estate for mind domination. But such terminology imposes

unnecessary restrictions. Attractive though the metaphors of copying and cloning might be, there is no evidence that neuronal assemblies are underpinned by its members behaving as generations of a species through evolution. A further problem is that it is never made clear how the most successful neuronal group, and hence the dominating "thought", enters consciousness. Calvin explicitly chooses to set the C-word to one side in his pursuit of intelligence, but a permanent divorce ends up, not surprisingly, impossible.

Not only does he distinguish between "subconscious" thoughts but also, albeit cursorily, mentions emotional factors contributing to our state of mind. Emotions are closely associated with the pervasive action of fountains of certain brain chemicals, which nonetheless have only walk-on parts in Calvin's final scheme. Instead, emphasis is placed on the neuronal electrical signals that are chained in alternating sequence with the chemical ones. As with many computer-type models of the mind, this type of approach emphasises changes in electrical signals due to experience, namely learning and memory, but on its own caters poorly for accounting for mood-modifying drugs that target the chemical parts of the signalling chain. By departing from issues of chemical transmission and feelings, Calvin turns his back on holistic brain function and follows the well-trodden path (via relatively isolated neuronal circuits) towards the prospect of silicon intelligences.

Surely an account of human intelligence, of literally, "understanding", should cater for more than clever solutions to problems. At a time when we are awash with scientific theories of consciousness, this highly readable book offers a refreshing and novel way of cutting the brain cake. But it remains the same cake.

Susan Greenfield's *The Human Brain: A Guided Tour* will be published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in July.

"CRITICAL THEORY" can make all fiction sound excruciatingly boring, a mere vehicle for current propaganda. A good critic, on the other hand, makes a novel come alive in new and unexpected ways. Critical theory dislikes facts, and shies away from any discussion of the domestic detail of a novel's characters.

Professor John Sutherland is a marvellous critic, and if he were not so modest and so pragmatically unassuming he might found a new school of fiction criticism, which would really get down to the business. It would be about the facts that the novelist either hasn't noticed himself or hopes that his readers won't notice. And it would reveal an immense amount about the way a novel is written, and why it affects us as it does.

This is the second volume in which he has explored this critical approach — the first was entitled *Is Heathcliff A Murderer?* Here are a further 32 literary puzzles which send us back to a famous novel, and make us think hard about its modes of construction and convention. What interests Sutherland are the ways in which a good novel can depart from the literal, and even from the plausible, without the reader noticing it.

Don't trust him, Jane

John Bayley

CAN JANE EYRE BE HAPPY?

More Puzzles in Classic Fiction

By John Sutherland

World's Classics, OUP, £4.99

ISBN 0 19 283309 X



Jane Eyre: next for the critic

every first-class novelist, has it both ways: an immediate and vivid dramatic effect, plus a perfectly plausible and literal explanation should his reader start seriously to consider the matter.

Then what about poor, conceited little Jane Eyre? Can she, and her reader, really be confident that Mr Rochester will not persecute or even do away with her at some later point in their married life? For Sutherland is able to convince us to show that the novel is unconsciously modelled on that most popular of Victorian fairytales — the story of Blue-

beard. And the sober George Eliot's equally unconscious recourse to fairytale at the end of *The Mill on the Floss* is quite preposterous — "The scene of the Tullivers' drowning is, by any understanding of the laws of hydro-dynamics and the lesser science of river-boating, incredible".

TO PASS to more intimate or more vulgar matters — where does Fanny Hill keep her contraceptives? The answer is in a secret drawer in the bedpost; and she is well versed in the use of them. And what is the reason for the deliciously awful Mr Elton, in Jane Austen's *Emma*, referring to her husband as "cara sposo" instead of by the grammatically accurate if by then equally vulgar "cara sposo"? Did the printer slip up? Did Jane Austen intend a further dig at her target? Or was she herself ignorant of the proper phrase? This is one of the few puzzles for which Sutherland is unable to offer a conclusive explanation; but his comments and suggestions are, as usual, both fascinatingly learned and full of down-to-

earth common sense.

The jewel of his collection is perhaps the wonderful scene in Hardy's early novel *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, in which the heroine rescues the hero from falling over a cliff by making a long rope of her underwear. The moment is far more erotically exciting than anything in D.H. Lawrence or — it goes without saying — any of the boringly explicit sexual encounters in contemporary fiction; and yet the author managed it without any rupture of the strict Victorian proprieties.

Our critic here offers a competition: which great novelist of the period could have best contrived that a well-bred young lady allow a gentleman to embrace her tightly, feel her breasts and look up her skirt, without the faintest hint of lubricity: the novelist describing moreover in great detail the constituents of her underclothing? Young Hardy, opines Sutherland, was the only one of his contemporaries who could have attempted such a test, let alone pulled it off so triumphantly.

No wonder *The Economist* observed of this splendid collection's predecessor that "if this kind of thing went on", literary criticism would at last win back its good name.

Some gratified, the rest astonished

Under the question "profession" in a hotel registry, Samuel Clemens once wrote "Mark Twain." Portraying Mark Twain — being a legend — is what Clemens did for a living. As journalist, author, humorist, lecturer and American oracle, Clemens played Twain so well for so long that almost 90 years after Sam's death most people still have to pause a moment to recollect that Mark Twain never existed.

Mark Twain was more than a *nom de plume*. He was an extraordinary illusion, a grand hoax, a literary possessor (or, as Clemens preferred, Moral Phenomenon). So complete and convincing was the conjured Twain that even his creator sometimes seemed overwhelmed and could not always distinguish between his own persona and that of his imaginary alter ego.

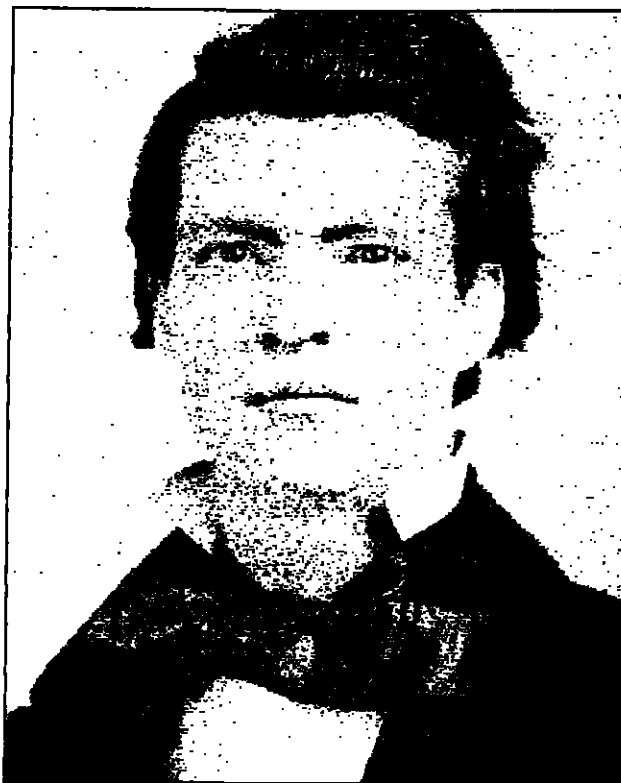
Andrew Hoffman, in his scrupulous biography of America's most dominant man of letters, confesses his own frustration in grappling with the Clemens-Twain duality. Where did Sam leave off and Mark begin? Or was it the other way around? They were both spinners of colourful yarns and tellers of tall tales, and poor Mr Hoffman laments that writing the story of Sam-Mark is "like writing the biography of a liar." The baleful truth, he concludes, is that "they were two people in the same body."

In books and essays, Clemens-Twain developed this same theme of duality, most notably between the white boy Huck Finn and the black slave Jim, or (just after the Civil War) between disputatious Siamese twins — one was Roman Catholic, the other Baptist; one fought for the North, the other for the South.

One thing is sure: Clemens through Twain came as close as anything in American literature to a truly national voice. He set his stories in the heartland of the nation along the pulsing artery of the Mississippi. His most famous characters were adolescents at the shifting frontier of innocence — shrewd, bumptious, naïfs whose back-country purity was always in danger of "civilizing" influences. He plumbed the great moral and political issues of the day, which then as now, revolved around race. His humour was deadpan hyperbole, his language American vernacular. Clemens and Twain together launched the burgeoning new America into an eternal quest for its own national culture and identity.

As a literary ventriloquist, Clemens was also another kind of American breed: the irrepressible showman-huckster. Like

Raymond Seitz on the genius of America's greatest literary ventriloquist



The young Sam Clemens, dashing as a steamboatman

INVENTING MARK TWAIN

By Andrew Hoffman
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25
ISBN 0 297 81536 9

MARK TWAIN'S LETTERS

Volume 5
Edited by Lin Salamo and Harriet Elinor Smith
University of California Press, \$60
ISBN 0 520 20822 6

P. T. Barnum he invented and marketed something that was patently untrue but which everyone wanted to believe. He wore only white suits and sported a wild mane of silver hair (when Clemens once tried to liberate himself from Twain, he shaved his head). Clemens was the first American celebrity, so renowned and adulated at home and abroad that his public life became a single, continuing performance.

In his private life, Sam Clemens had only one overriding preoccupation beyond his devotion to his wife Livy and his

children: how to make lots of money. Mark Twain once advised: "There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can't afford it and when he can." Sam ignored this wisdom in an endless spiral of get-rich-quick schemes, which Hoffman relates thoroughly if doggedly.

Restless and anxious, the peripatetic Sam Clemens was always on the go. In 1872-73, he made three trips to Britain, primarily to secure the copyrights for *Innocents Abroad* and *Roughing It*, which had just appeared in the United States. Publishers are not accountable to the laws of heaven," Twain explained as he embarked for Liverpool. Clemens was lionised by the British public, embraced by literary London and hosted at innumerable grand dinners and intimate salons. "Too much company, too much dining and too much sociability," he complained after "three weeks of undigested dinners".

On each sojourn Sam settled into the Langham Hotel from which he scribbled notes to the likes of William Dean Howells and Bret Harte. But he loved the London life and never got around to writing down much of any significance. This is disappointing, as revealed in the latest volume of Twain's letters which cover these hectic months. The book is the fifth of his collected correspondence and the 24th in the prodigious series which the Bancroft Library at the University of California has undertaken in order to gather together all of Mark Twain's works and papers.

With forensic precision the editors have annotated, footnoted and dissected every scrap of paper to which Twain set pen. The text reproduces Twain's cross-outs, carats and trivial emendations. This academic exactitude is impressive, and as a reference work, the book is a virtuoso of detail. But the letters themselves (309 over 543 pages) are mainly dashed-off messages about money or schedule commitments, and together form a kind of insubstantial tip of a scholarly iceberg. Not much of the real Twain shines through.

Andrew Hoffman's biography, on the other hand, is not so obviously iconographic (there is, for example, the obligatory innuendo that Clemens might have dabbled in some youthful homosexuality). Hoffman is more daring in his attempt to capture the tangled contradictions of Sam's relationship with Mark, and in this web of truth and illusion, the author sees a metaphor for America's rolling relationship with itself.

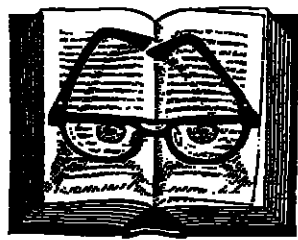
Horizontal, rather than chirpay

COD scholarship has a happy way of spawning real scholarship. Pope's elaborated spoof notes to *The Dunciad*, for instance, have long had the subject of intensive academic exposition.

The *Mushri-English Pronouncing Dictionary*, first compiled in 1879-80, is an affectionate record of the speech of Edmund Mosher, a Classics master at Winchester College with a notable twist of phrase ("individualise the coney tart", he would say, meaning "help yourself to rabbit pie") and a locution that became "lign-dararay". The remarks make the man: "Accelerate the Myrmidon" (tell the servant to hurry up); "Cum-cum! do not be so grumpy!"; or (of the headmaster, still abed): "I found him, er, horizontal, but chirpay".

Now this slender work, originally distributed in "jelly-graphed" form and running to seven editions by 1901, has been reprinted with

an introduction by Christopher Stray that is recondite and heavily annotated but never drags its footnotes. Wykehamists have long had (and maintain) a college language known as *Notions*; they treasured independence



BIBLIOMANE

and eccentricity; and in high Victorian England philology was fashionable, thanks to Liddell and Scott's Greek Dictionary, Lewis and Short's Latin, and the gathering momentum of the OED.

So an elaborate prank concerning one individual opens many paths of inquiry. As the editor says, we know very little about what actually happens in classrooms, about that cusp of adulthood and scholarship, the sixth form —

or about the 19th-century passion for recreational lumberjacking. Has anyone investigated the private codes that many good teachers develop? Do they, for instance, serve a purpose as shibboleths, a kind of initiation into the ways of knowledge?

Anyhow, this fond farago is erudite and yet — as the man used to say — "sine pompa": £11 from Dr Stray, Dept of Classics, University of Wales, Swansea, SA2 8PP.

THE Gregynog Press, set up in 1923 and revived by the University of Wales in 1978, is being wound down once more. Its problem has been serving too many masters, financially and artistically. The company has failed to

break even, despite being known for presswork of international standing. The directors essentially represent the university, but the shortfall has come from the Welsh Arts Council, which has insisted on the production of a number of books in Welsh (spelling death). Now it has lost a quarter of its Arts Council funding and is likely to lose the rest. (It can't meet the criteria of "accessibility" and "participation": it doesn't do finger-painting.) But the incoherent publishing programme too must take some blame.

David Esslemont, controller of the press for 12 years, submitted a proposal to buy it outright, but received no answer. The directors seem to intend to publish books on an *ad hoc* basis with freelance workers. That shows how little they know. Gregynog now looks likely to revert to conference accommodation.

JIM MCCUE

Not at the heart of the matter

Derwent May

THE QUEST FOR GRAHAM GREENE

By W. J. West
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20
ISBN 0 297 81822 8

This is a bizarre book. W. J. West, who scored a hit when he unearthed some wartime BBC broadcasts by George Orwell a few years ago, has now discovered a number of hitherto unknown facts about Graham Greene. But in his excitement he has woven them into a "quest" for Greene in which he suggests, quite unconvincingly, that he has traced patterns in Greene's life to which the author left cryptic clues.

The chief discovery here is that, in the 1960s, Greene trusted the control and investment of his foreign earnings to a solicitor and overseas tax consultant called Tom Roe. The money would go to Greene via a tax-shelter company set up for Greene and others in Switzerland. It was a tax avoidance scheme, but on the face of it perfectly legal.

Unfortunately Roe was a criminal who was caught one day in 1965, smuggling a large quantity of forged banknotes into Switzerland, and subsequently imprisoned.

West was led to Roe by finding some letters by the thriller writer James Hadley Chase stored in an Ealing basement. Chase was a friend of Greene's and also a client of Roe's. In broad outline, West's discovery here appears to be true. Yet if you comb through his account, you find very little precise evidence for it.

Moreover, West goes on to draw a pathetic picture of Greene being forced by the Inland Revenue into unwilling exile in France after the Roe connection had been revealed. At this point in the book,



Harry Lime: medical qualifications the root of evil?

Greene practically takes on the lineaments of a Roman Catholic martyr. Yet in what way or on what grounds the Revenue is supposed to have done this dastardly deed — or how much money Greene owed or lost through his dealings with Roe — are matters on which you find you are given no detail at all.

A similar blend of dramatic assertion and vagueness of fact is to be found in other episodes described by West. It is well known that as a boy of 16, Greene was sent to live for six months with a psychiatrist called Kenneth Richmond, but it has been left to West to suggest now that Greene had an affair with Richmond's wife

Zoe. He finds various supposedly mysterious incidents that he thinks lend credence to this idea — for instance, that when Greene met Richmond some time later, the psychiatrist failed to mention that he had had a son. If Greene had been told, West suggests, he might have thought he was the father. But the account in Norman Sherry's biography of Greene, both of Greene's stay at the Richmonds and of his later sexual initiation, seems to shatter West's idea. Nevertheless, West makes more and more confident references to Greene's sexual relations with Zoe.

West often finds out small facts and then sees them lurking beneath the surface of Greene's life and work again and again. He observes that Greene attended some public meetings of the 1935 Royal Commission of Armaments at which the Chaco Wars between Bolivia and Paraguay were mentioned. How often, as West sees it, do the Chaco Wars not crop up again after that in Greene's life and

books! He points out that Harry Lime was a qualified doctor — and manages to conclude from this that Greene's "ability to see evil in a medical man" helped him to describe Papa Doc's regime in Haiti. Even weirder reasoning underlies West's suggestion that Greene may have been personally responsible for the Cuban missile crisis.

Greene's own mystifications about his life have led many of his commentators into strange ways. Even his authorised biographer gets so interested in the problems he has to solve that his book can seem to turn into a kind of Life of Norman Sherry by Graham Greene.

West appears to be another such victim. I noticed that in the blurb of his book, a communist friend of Greene's at Oxford whom West has dug out is described as having spent his life "in South America fighting apartheid".

In South America? Whatever can be behind this? Does someone at West's publishers know something he doesn't? Or is he being set up? If this goes on, I can see his next book being called *A Quest for West*.

Lesley Chamberlain gets on her bike and feels the wind in her hair

Throttle up to take a ride on the dream machine

The question may be broader. "What is it about women and physical fear and exhilaration" that is changing the way they understand their lives? Women walk to the North Pole, travel the world, swim in icy waters, run marathons, or, like Melissa Holbrook Pierson, they take a powerful bike across the state of Georgia in search of beauty and self-knowledge. Or maybe they just work out.

In any case, this book graphically begins to explain why to a contemporary woman the experience of her physical power and endurance should be so important. It contains a coffee-table entertainment on the history of motorcycles, which makes a fleeting reference to classic bikers such as George Bernard Shaw and T. E. Lawrence and feels more like a money-spinning article.

But Melissa's personal story is compelling. We meet her as a twentysomething graduate in the history of art, with clever friends, caring parents and a disastrous dating record. She sends poems out into the ether and in return receives a brief to write advertising copy. Thanks to a boyfriend's example, she's started

THE PERFECT VEHICLE

What is it about Motorcycles?

By Melissa Holbrook Pierson
Granta, £10.99
ISBN 1 86307 036 3

biking and the cheque for selling her soul is just enough to upgrade the vehicle.

That move changes her life and generates this first book. Her two biker lovers puzzle over her love of literature, but give her more confidence in life, introduce her to bikers' *esprit de corps*, and teach her the mechanics of the machine. Something like a Hegelian dialectic seems to apply to her romantic choices. The thrill of opposites propels her along the path to self-realisation, beyond them all. We leave her happily married to another writer, having discovered that motorcycles are a cure for what ails us, or for what alienates us from our own abilities.

She is terrific on the bike as objective correlative of the soul: "a project that is finished only when you are". Most women will be fascinated, too, by how she copes with a thoroughly sexist world of

will never hear music in the screaming throttle. Holbrook Pierson is a romantic modernist whose remarks on "the poetry of the man-made world", seem oddly salutary now that most of us fear not deferring to nature. Her roads are as loved as ever was Edward Thomas's "Helen of the roads." The mountain ways of Wales... from her point of view you would think that the problem of urban machines invading the countryside had never arisen.

Holbrook Pierson is the first woman to write such a book, but not the first writer. Robert M. Pirsig's epoch-making *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* of 1974 was equally full of absorbing, alternately frustrating and enlightening kerbside tinkering on bike and soul, and, having cited other books in her history, she ought to have paid tribute to it. But where *Zen* was a quasi-philosophical work about the best life, and at times hard going, this fluent book ultimately reveals more about the strengths and limitations of ordinary human beings in pursuit of happiness.



Books in Saturday's Directory: What price The Bible Code? Bernard Levin on the latest bestseller

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■ **MADEIRA** for £199 for a week's self-catering with a flight from Gatwick on June 30 is on offer from Style Holidays. Details: 0181-568 1999.

■ **KITZBÜHEL**, Austria, is available for £349 for a week's half-board in three-star hotels, representing savings of up to £150, from Airtours Lakes & Mountains, with flights from Gatwick on July 2, 9 and 16. Details: 01706 260000.

■ **THE ROYAL** Pageant of the Horse, celebrating the Queen's golden wedding anni-

versary on July 5 at Windsor, is the centrepiece of weekend tours on offer from Pride of Britain. Prices: £335 a person for two nights in a Hampshire hotel; £405 in London. Details: 01305 266440.

■ **THAILAND'S** Golden Triangle is the destination for a 12-day trip with Explore Worldwide with a flight from Heathrow on July 5. The tour takes in hillside villages, temples in Bangkok and is priced at £795 a person, including some meals and a mixture of accommodation. Details: 01252 319448.

■ **JAMAICA** for £379 for a week in room-only accommodation, with a flight from Manchester on July 6, is available from Going Places. Details: 0541 555334.

■ **PLACES** are still available on Galina International Battlefield Tours to First World War sites on June 29, August 1 and 5 and September 8. Prices: £109 for three-day tour; £229 for five days, including coach travel, ferry crossings, B&B in hotels and tour guide. Details: 01482 890602.

FLIGHTS

RETURN FARES to Austria, Germany and Scandinavia have fallen dramatically. The latest World Offers from British Airways feature Vienna, Oslo and Stockholm at £99, Copenhagen at £89 and Helsinki at £129. Hamburg, Leipzig, Berlin, Stuttgart and Munich are all available for £79. Details: 0345 222111.

■ **BOOK** by tomorrow for peak-season return fares of £399 to New York from Virgin Atlantic for departures between July 10 and August 31. Details: 01293 747747.

■ **FOR EVERY** two adults travelling with British Airways or Qantas to Australia between August 10 and September 30, one child can travel for £1. Adult fares start at £1,006. Details: Trailfinders, 0171-938 3939.

■ **BRITISH** Airways has introduced a £59 Apex excursion on main domestic routes from Heathrow to Scotland along with Belfast, Manchester and Newcastle. Details: 0345 222111.



Savings of up to £250 on water sports holidays for the rest of this month are on offer from Mark Warner. A week in Turkey with a flight from Gatwick next Monday now costs £389 a person, including all meals and water sports. Cap d'Or, Greece, for a fortnight from June 30 costs £681. Details: 0171-393 3131.

FERRIES

HOVERSPEED is offering £149 returns for a car and five passengers on its new fast ferry, due in service on Dover-Cassis on June 23. The fare applies to bookings by September 1. Details: 0990 240241.

■ **LE SHUTTLE** has published a timetable after its decision to accept reservations. Spaces will also be left for turn-up-and-go travellers. Details: 0990 353535.

■ **MOTORISTS** booking a standard return with Irish Ferries by August 31 can buy a second ticket for £59, for use on daylight crossings between September 15-December 15 on both Holyhead and Pembroke routes. Details: 0990 171717.

■ **TWO** children can travel free with two adults on Scandinavian Seaways holidays to Denmark until August 31. Two-week camping holidays for four now start at £442. Details: 0990 333111.

■ **STENA** Line has savings on selected sailings on the Fishguard-Rosslare route, at £158 for a car and five passengers. Details: 0990 707070.

HOTELS

HOLIDAY INN is extending its Weekender Plus summer rates to all week from June 27 until September 7. Room prices start at £36 a night at 207 European hotels, including 38 in the UK. Details: 0800 897121.

■ **NOBU**, the Japanese restaurant at the new Metropolitan Hotel in Park Lane, has launched a special lunch menu at £20 a head now that it is open for lunch as well as dinner. Details: 0171-447 4747.

■ **THE** Trout Hotel at Cockermouth in west Cumbria has a pre-school holidays weekend tariff of £99.75 a person a night to include accommodation, breakfast and dinner. Details: 01900 823591.

■ **A TRIP** on the ferry across the Mersey and entry to six Liverpool museums and galleries is included in the two-night break at the Blundell-Sands Hotel at Crosby, Liverpool; £175 for two sharing. Details: 0151-924 6515.

■ **SUMMER RATES** at the Lowndes Hotel in Knightsbridge will be £150 a night

plus VAT for single bookings and £160 plus VAT for double. The rates apply from July 7 until August 31. Details: 0171-823 1234.

■ **HILTON** International has reintroduced its European Weekend breaks programme offering special rates at more than 40 of its European hotels, based on two people sharing for a minimum of two nights. Offer available Friday to Sunday only until the end of the year. Details: 0800 8568000.

■ **THE** newly refurbished Bailey's Hotel in West London is extending its weekend rates to weekday bookings from July 10 until the end of August. Rates start at £120 a room a night, subject to availability, a saving of over £81 on the usual tariff. Details: 0171-373 6000.

■ **CENTRE STAGE**, the theatre-break specialists, are offering a midweek break at the Radisson Edwardian Vanderbilt Hotel in Central London, with a choice of two plays. Price is £59 a person a night (double occupancy). Details: 0800 335588.

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Doctors cash in on hotel call-outs

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

VISITORS to London are being "scandalously over-charged" for medical care by doctors called to treat them at their hotels, says Dr Charles Levinson, managing director of Doctorcall, a 24-hour emergency medical call-out service. The healthier the visitor, the more the doctor — often briefed on the guest's ability to pay by the hotel concierge — charged.

"As many visiting business people and tourists are covered by health or travel insurance, they think they can get away with overcharging," says Dr Levinson. Michael Naylor-Leyland, marketing manager of Doctorcall, says: "If a firm star calls a doctor to a hotel, he gets charged £200. This is bad for London and bad for the hotel business."

A private doctor call-out rate in London should average between £80 and £100 a visit, but many hotel guests are being charged at least £150. Doctorcall charges £60 for each call-out.

Meanwhile, British visitors to the United States are warned that they could face financial ruin if they fall sick and are not adequately covered by insurance. The cost of treating a heart attack

ranges from £15,000 to £25,000, according to Home and Overseas, Britain's biggest holiday insurance company.

Even being admitted to hospital on a false alarm, such as chest pains which turn out to be indigestion, can cost up to £6,000.

"American hospitals won't refuse to treat emergency cases, even those without insurance," says Sarah Joannides, marketing manager for Home and Overseas.

"US hospitals are basically hotels for sick people, where a single night costs between £1,250 and £2,500," she says.

BRITISH holidaymakers are convinced that they will get an upset stomach while on holiday in Europe, according to a survey carried out by the manufacturers of Pepto-Bismol, a patent remedy.

Although 75 per cent believe they will be safe at a British seaside resort, 80 per cent are prepared for an upset stomach to affect their holiday enjoyment in Europe for at least one or two days, the survey found.

Spain has the worst reputation, with 84 per cent of travellers refusing to touch Spanish tap water.

TRAVEL IN BRIEF

■ BRITAIN'S first new regional airport for 50 years opened last week. Sheffield City Airport hopes to capture the local business-travel market: some four million people live within 40 minutes of the airport. The largest aircraft landing there will be capable of carrying 100 passengers to the key industrial and commercial centres of Europe.

■ For the seriously rich, or for special corporate entertainment bashes, Air Hanson is offering a helicopter tour of Britain's historic houses. The tours start from Battersea, in West London, and include many of Britain's best-known stately homes while offering a bird's eye view of Britain. Prices are from £1,500 a person.

■ Sandals, the Caribbean all-inclusive resort specialist, is offering a free replacement holiday to anyone whose stay is ruined by a hurricane this year. "This will ensure that the dream holiday you have been looking forward to will become a reality," said Sandals chairman Butch Stewart.

■ The Scottish-based travel agency chain A.T. Mays has opened its first agency in Moscow and plans several more later this year. Eventually it hopes to run up to 30 shops — to be called Carlson Vacations — to cater for the booming Russian market.



Cricket-mad West Indians will find plenty of English tourists to bowl at next winter

England cricketers start Caribbean run

By TONY DAWE

AS ENGLAND'S cricketers go into the second Test at Lord's today one-nit on against Australia, holiday firms are planning to capitalise on the team's unexpected success.

The next Test series takes place in the West Indies from January to April next year and

tour operators are hoping to book a record number of English fans eager to combine cricket-watching with a Caribbean holiday.

The first brochures have started to appear and rival companies are racing to sign up cricketing celebrities, including Sir Colin Cowdrey, who was created a peer in last week's Queen's Birthday Honours, to host individual tours.

Alison Sullings, product manager of Caribbean Connection, says: "Itineraries can be arranged to all islands where cricket is being staged. Prices will include accommodation, flights, transfers, including those to and from the cricket grounds, and match tickets."

Caribbean Connection is offering accommodation in a wide range of properties, from the luxurious Sandy Lane, costing £2,387 a person a week including flights, to the cosy and secluded Treasure Beach, at £1,613 a week.

For the ultimate cricket holiday, ITC Sports is chartering Sea Goddess I from the Cunard fleet for an exclusive cruise centred around the Barbados Test. The 14-day cruise will take in the Orinoco River in Venezuela, several of the smaller southern Caribbean islands and be moored in Bridgetown Harbour during the match. The all-inclusive price is £6,675 a person.

Nick Hunt, manager of Sport Abroad, which will publish its brochure next month, says: "Interest in the West Indies series has started much earlier than usual and we have received hundreds of inquiries."

Meanwhile, Calypso Gold has signed up Sir Garfield Sobers to meet clients at the venues. The company is offering a range of tours to cover different games, plus the Full Toss Tour covering all five Test matches and one-day internationals over 74 nights for £5,525 on a room-only basis or £10,700 with half-board and tickets for all matches.

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FOCUS

AUSTRALIA

As John Howard starts his visit to Britain, Michael Binyon examines Australia's domestic policies and its relationship with Britain

Batting for a new partnership

As he takes his seat at Lord's today, John Howard, Australia's Prime Minister, has every reason to be happy. Not only will he be watching a game that commands his passionate love and attention in the most celebrated citadel of cricket, but his arrival at the start of a six-day visit to Britain comes at a time of unusual warmth in relations between this country and Australia.

It is a time when both countries are striving to update and refresh their perceptions of each other and one in which Australia is riding the crest of a new reputation and influence in Britain.

With every bottle of shiraz or chardonnay sold in Britain, with every new Oscar-winning film, stage production, high-technology export and investment, the image of Australia in Britain is changing. The growing number of British tourists, the surge of business interest in the Australian economy and the visible influence of Australians in British politics are creating a general impression that Australia is a vibrant, varied, prosperous and multifaceted country.

The old clichés, the patronising attitudes and the general ignorance of Australia's sophisticated, urban culture are giving way to new associations: good cuisine, a multi-cultural society and regional clout in Asia. A formidable economic strength has made Australia the third largest overseas investor in Britain, established Britain as Australia's second largest investor and raised trade between the two countries to more than £6 billion.

But although more than a million Australians were born in Britain, mutual perceptions are still prey to stereotypes.

New Images, a year-long programme launched in February and comprising more than 150 events, exhibitions, lectures, festivals and industrial ventures showing unfamiliar facets of the two countries, is intended to underpin the growing economic interaction with a more solid appraisal of what the two countries have now become.

Australia, a partner in the programme, is also shaking off the last vestiges of its provincial reputation. And Australia has one invincible



Howard: a cricket lover and under test himself

product that more than any other has changed its reputation: wine. For many Britons, the crude lager drinker who doesn't give a XXXX has been replaced by the opera-loving southern hemisphere sophisticate. Paradoxically, however, the launch of New Images has coincided with a questioning by Australians of their image, cultural identity and position in the world.

This has been sharpened by recent events that have shaken Australian assumptions and provoked political storms that have swirled around the Prime Minister and his Liberal-dominated Government, ending the honeymoon that lasted for almost a year after his election.

Three events, in particular, have had repercussions far beyond Australia. First was the demagogic announcement by Pauline Hanson, a populist MP, that immigration, especially of Asians, should be curtailed. Second was the revelation of a 30-year assimilation

programme that entailed forcibly removing light-skinned Aboriginal children from their mothers and placing them with white foster parents. Third was the landmark judgment giving Aborigines residual rights in land that was long ago given over to sheep-ranchers and non-indigenous farmers.

The subsequent debate has been disturbing. How many Australians openly or tacitly support racist views? How much real support — at home and in key regional allies such as Japan — now exists for Australia's attempts, especially under Paul Keating's previous Labor Government, to define Aus-

tralia's global role in an Asian context? And how much guilt should attach to today's generation for the unquestionable wrong done to Aborigines for two centuries?

Mr Howard, a middle-of-the-road Conservative in the John Major mould who prefers consensus to confrontation, continuity to new departures, has come under attack. His reluctance to speak out, his political need to keep right-wing support and his steady-as-she-goes policies have been seen as ill-suited to the sudden turbulence.

He had hoped to use his large mandate to tackle overdue economic reform: privatisation, a restructu-

ring of unions and restrictive industrial practices, the need to revamp social security and external tariffs. There is also the grumbling constitutional debate, which he has dampened with proposals for a convention this autumn to look at the monarchy question.

Instead he has been thrown on the defensive. He acted deftly in tightening gun control after the shootings in Tasmania last year, and won much popularity. But his touch on these new issues is seen as less deft. This in turn has stimulated a row over economic problems, especially the persistently high unemployment rate.

He is unfazed. He is a political survivor, having lost his party's leadership and then regained it. He expected trouble at some stage, he told *The Times*. And he is sure that on both the Aboriginal land-claim demands and the definition of Australia's role in Asia he has got the balance right.

THE BIG ISSUES

The latest opinion polls put Australia's ruling coalition of Liberal and National parties several points ahead of the Opposition and — like the Conservative Party in Britain — the Labor Party may have to resign itself to the possibility of two or three terms in the political wilderness.

Since John Howard became Prime Minister in March last year, after a landslide victory, his Government has pursued a stable policy internationally and at home.

The Labor leader Kim Beazley, who took over from Paul Keating after the last election, continues to put the beat on the Government over unemployment, which recently rose to 8.3 per cent.

But in truth, Australia's economy, while not exactly sparkling, does not pose any major political

problems at the moment. With inflation hovering at around 2 per cent and interest rates at their lowest level since the early Seventies, the nation is enjoying one of its most economically stable periods in more than two decades.

Australia, however, is suffering many of the modern problems facing most other Western countries. Crime and drugs are rife, especially in metropolitan areas where heroin addiction among the young has reached epidemic proportions. Violent crime, including armed robbery, assault, murder and even road rage, is as prevalent in Australia as in Britain.

Another area of increasing concern is youth suicide. Australia has the dubious distinction of having one of the world's highest rates of suicide among young men.

Other issues of social concern include a high divorce rate — more than 40 per cent of marriages fail — continuing strain on the health service, funded through a 1.5 per cent levy on wages, and the old. By 2011, one in five Australians will be more than 60, compared with one in ten now.

While the Government grapples with these and many other social

problems, it is also trying to address the vexed question of taxation. Australia has one of the highest rates of personal taxation in the world, prompting the Prime Minister to float the possibility of introducing a goods and services tax (GST), similar to VAT.

The introduction of such a tax is not likely to happen, however, before the next general election, which is due in 1999. Assuming Mr Howard manages to contain his ambitious Treasurer, Peter Costello, the current Liberal leader will almost certainly take Australia into the next century.

While he has had to bow to public pressure for a people's convention, to be held in December, on whether Australia should become a republic, there are no immediate plans for a referendum on the issue and it seems unlikely that Australia will become a republic by 2000.

The latest opinion polls suggest roughly 50 per cent of the nation would back the declaration of a republic, but for such a course to be taken, it would require the support of a majority in a majority of states. Immigration figures continue to fall with the Government cutting the worldwide intake this year by 8 per cent to 68,000. The family reunion category, which has recently favoured Asian migrants, will be particularly hit with numbers reduced by 23 per cent. Instead there will be a greater emphasis on those migrants with attractive work skills.

The maverick politician Pauline Hanson's "fortress Australia" view of the world may appeal to some, but most Australians realise that there is no future in isolationism if their nation is to advance and prosper in the next century. Both the Government and Opposition accept that Australia has a pivotal role to play in the Asia-Pacific region and has a vested interest in its political stability and economic growth.

ROGER MAYNARD



Labor's Kim Beazley: unemployment concerns

No room for complacency

John Howard tells Michael Binyon why Australia still values the UK

Australia's Prime Minister, John Howard, emphasises the importance of keeping communities open to avoid complacency in Anglo-Australian relations. As long as both sides keep abreast of reality, rather than relying on the past, keeping the image up to date will take care of itself.

"The New Images programme is a good idea. It focuses on the fact that a lot of Britain is very different from the 1970s, and Australia is different from what was shown in the 1950s and 1960s." In his first interview with any foreign publication since winning an election landslide last year, Mr Howard told *The Times* he wanted to maintain the momentum of the relationship and keep it fresh.

"It is particularly appropriate for a relatively new Australian prime minister to get to know a very new British prime minister."

Mr Howard believed he had a lot in common with Mr Blair, even though they came from different sides of the political divide. Each had big majorities, with Mr Howard's 44-seat majority the proportional equivalent of Mr Blair's 179-seat lead in the larger British parliament. Each had come into government after long periods in opposition.

"It's important that leaders visit each other. We have not had enough visits by British prime ministers." However, he noted, approvingly, that Mr Blair had a lot of contact with Australia and association with Australians.

One of the messages he was bringing to London was that Australia had got the balance right between its history and geography. "We are a country whose political and economic destiny is very much tied up with the Asia-Pacific region, while at the same time preserving associations with Britain and the rest of Europe and the US, with which we have enormous cultural and historical affinity."

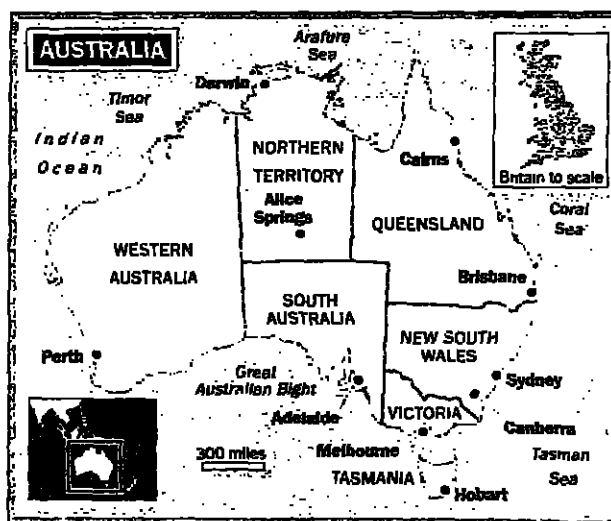
"Australia is a projection of Western culture and civilisation in our part of the world, but absorbing into that mainstream the environment and culture of the region."

Was Australia accepted by its Asian partners? "The association we have is very comfortable. We add value to it because of our European and American links. It's a plus, not a barrier."

One global role Australia could play, he said, was as a conduit. The country did not carry the baggage of other Western countries — especially in its relationship with China. Mr Howard was quick to rebut suggestions that he would preach to the Chinese or other Asians. But how outspoken could he be on human rights in China, or East Timor?

"We take a practical, commonsense approach to that. We don't see a lot of value in public hectoring, because the returns are fairly small. We try to be practical without surrendering any of our own beliefs."

A looming test is whether he will attend the swearing-in of the Chinese-appointed Hong Kong legislature. "We're still looking at it," he remarked drily. It was a subject that could come up with Mr Blair.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ONGOING and forthcoming highlights of New Images events in Britain:

● Montage: a collection of online projects linking Australian and UK schools in joint activities. Internet: <http://newimages.montage.edu.au/>

● The Ashes Cricket Show in the Exhibition Hall of Australia House until August 31

● Australian contemporary performing arts at the Edinburgh International Festival of Theatre until June 29

● The Britten Sinfonia and Australian performers and composers are featured at the Cambridge Music Festival: July 8-26

● Exhibition of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal art at Museum of Modern Art: July 20-Nov 2

● Australian Youth Orchestra plays at five major venues: July 27-August 3

● Opera from Oz: Sydney Metropolitan Opera at the Spitalfields Market Opera Festival, London: August 30-Sept 14

● Bangarra Dance Com-

pany, Australia's leading contemporary indigenous dance company, performs world premiere of *Fish* at the Edinburgh International Festival: August 12-14

● Wigmore Hall: Australian performers provide a month-long programme of Australian music: Oct 11-Nov 7

● Australian Rules Football: Essendon and Geelong teams compete at Fosters Oval, Kennington

● Investment Seminar for chief executives from British and Australian companies at Australian High Commissioner's residence: October 6

● Night Sides: touring exhibition of 40 photographs taken at the Anglo-Australian telescope in mid-western New South Wales: from July 16

● Exhibition of the works of Clifford Possum and other Aboriginal artists at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery, Fitzrovia, London, until August 2

● For more information on events: telephone: 0171-887-5202. Internet: http://www.dfa.gov.au/newimages_home.html

Australia has traditionally been a pillar of the Commonwealth, even when Britain appeared to have lost interest. "We would want to continue that Australian tradition." It was a unique institution, providing opportunity for discussion and exchange. He wanted to see the Commonwealth consolidate recent political advances, especially in democracy and human rights.

Two Australian domestic issues have caused ripples abroad: the call by Pauline Hanson, the maverick right-wing MP, to limit immigration, especially from Asia; and the controversy over the "stolen generation" of Aboriginal children forcibly taken from their parents and placed in white foster homes.

On the first, Mr Howard was dismissive. "I don't believe it will do any serious damage to Australia, because it must be getting very clear that the views she expresses on Asian immigration are not the majority view." He said there could be no debate on Australia's non-discriminatory immigration policy. That would not change, even if the level and composition of immigration might.

Mr Howard doubted whether there would ever be a solution supported by everyone to the dispute over Aboriginal land claims. He had proposed a compromise that he believed struck the right balance.

On the controversy over the forcible adoption of Aboriginal children, Mr Howard countered the calls for a public apology by saying that this would be "inappropriate" without an offer of compensation — which the Government is not yet proposing. But the affair was, he admitted, the "biggest blemish" on Australia's history.

The third domestic issue that has resonated in Britain was the position of the monarchy in Australia. Mr Howard — who campaigned against abolishing the monarchy — said this was no longer such a burning issue. "It's a product of history."

There would be a convention later this year to look at the question of a republic. Australia's system of government was stable and workable. "We've had a crowned republic in this country for years. You don't trip on the crown every morning."

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Privatisation is
attracting UK
companies,
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Rachel Bridge

INVESTMENT

Australia's multibillion-dollar privatisation programme has become a big draw for British companies. In the past few years many well-known UK companies have set up there for the first time.

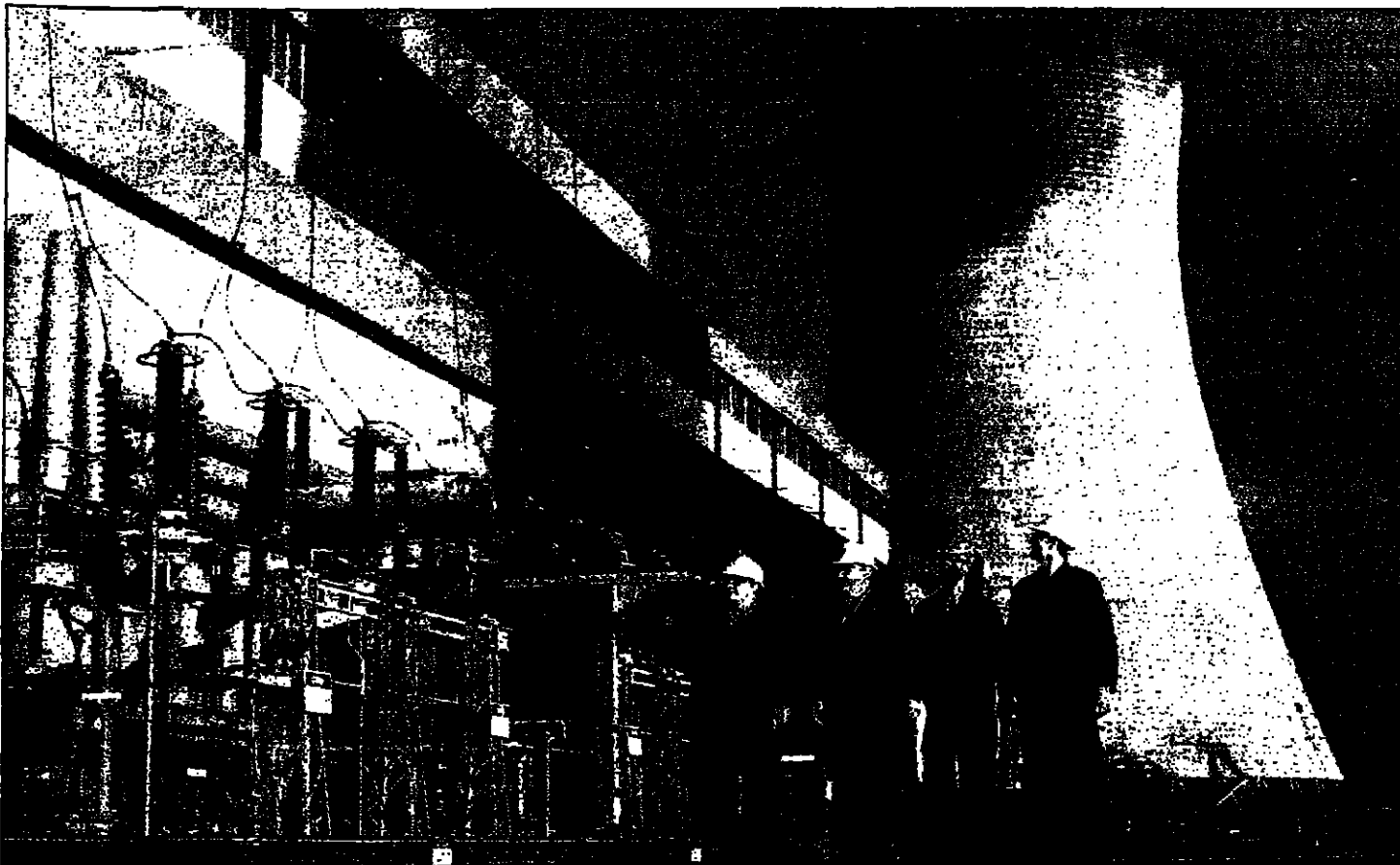
Governments at both federal and state level have embarked on a large sell-off of assets in an attempt to raise funds, with the result that everything from electricity industries and airports to banks and railways is up for grabs.

Already this year, PowerGen and National Power, the British electricity generators, have each bought power stations in the state of Victoria for \$2.4 billion (about £1.4 billion) as part of separate consortiums; PowerGen, for example, owns 49.95 per cent of Yallourn Energy. And a consortium led by BAA, the airport operator, has acquired Melbourne airport for \$1.3 billion. Last year the Bank of Scotland acquired Bankwest, Western Australia's biggest bank, from the State Government for \$900 million, subsequently selling half to the Australian public.

The privatisation programme is not confined to asset sales. Last year Thames Water, in conjunction with the French water giant Générale des Eaux, won a \$1.5 billion, 15-year contract to run South Australia's water and waste water system. More privatisation is on the way: 20 airports, a railway network, the Australian telephone giant Telstra and New South Wales' electricity industry are on the sale list.

Australia is also proving to be an attractive proposition, not only as a market in its own right, but also as a launch pad to the Asia-Pacific region. Such is the appeal that British investment in Australia has trebled to \$48 billion during the past ten years, making the UK the second largest investor in Australia after the US, representing more than a fifth of its entire foreign investment.

British Aerospace, after more than 40 years of having a small presence in Australia, decided last year to develop its business there because of the opportunities within the Australian defence industry and because it wants to export to Asia.



A Yallourn Energy plant in Victoria. PowerGen owns almost half of the company and has spent millions on buying power stations in the state

British business starts a romance Down Under

With its acquisition of AWA Defence Industries for \$54 million, it has become one of Australia's biggest defence companies. It recently won a \$1 billion contract to supply Hawk trainers to the Royal Australian Air Force.

Robin Southwell, group chief executive of British Aerospace Australia, says: "Australia is a good market in its own right and it gives us the ability to do work in Asia, which we would not have been able to do out of the UK. Australia is regarded uniformly within Asia as a credible supplier of high-tech quality defence products and we wanted to take advantage of that. We are now of a size and shape to be very much part of the infrastructure of the defence industry in Australia."

Three years ago, BT established a base in Australia with a pledge to invest \$440 million in the country

over seven years. Although progress has been slow, the group has made it clear it intends to be a key player in the telecommunications industry there following deregulation of the market in July. Marks & Spencer, too, recently announced its intention to open for business in Australia.

Carl Oden, Marks & Spencer's newly appointed general manager in Australia, says that the company is seeking an Australian joint-venture partner and hopes to be "well represented" in Australia's key cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane within the next five years. "Australia is a natural extension of our Asia-Pacific business," he says.

"We started in Hong Kong, then grew to Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia, and Australia is a

natural extension of that. I have walked the streets of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane for weeks now, and I think we offer a quality and value that will be unbeatable. I believe there is room in the marketplace for Marks & Spencer."

The level of foreign investment remains a delicate issue in Australia, however, and advisers warn British companies seeking to establish themselves that they need to choose their acquisitions with care.

One Sydney-based consultant who advises British and American companies says: "On the one hand, in areas such as energy and airports, state governments are going out of their way to encourage foreign investment. In other areas, such as banking and media, the Government in Canberra is extremely protective of Australian interests and is keen to promote local ownership. Foreign com-

panies need to make a case-by-case assessment of their prospects, looking not only at the legal restrictions, but also at the political environment. When Australia was coming out of recession in the early 1990s, every foreign investment dollar was welcomed with open arms, but now the situation is not as clear."

Investment links between Britain and Australia have not been a one-way street. Australian investment in Britain has risen 12-fold over the past ten years to more than \$30 billion. One of the newest arrivals is the Australian construction giant Lend Lease, which last year entered into a \$1.4 billion joint venture with the UK group Blue Circle to develop the Bluewater retail and leisure development in Kent, one of the largest shopping centres in Europe, due to be completed in March 1999.

Falling interest rates augur well for the future

THE ECONOMY

It is not often that Australia's economists agree with each other, but after four interest-rate cuts in less than a year, the consensus Down Under is that the prospects for the Australian economy look encouraging.

After more than a year of economic slowdown, economists are now pencilling in GDP growth of at least 4 per cent for the year to June 1998 with a still-higher rate of growth forecast for the year after, as the impact of the interest-rate cuts flow through to the new housing market and the retail sector.

Optimism is also being buoyed by the Reserve Bank of Australia's recent confirmation that inflation is set to stay below 2 per cent and by the Government's action to cut public spending by \$8 billion (\$3.8 billion) in a bid to return the budget to surplus after seven years in the red. Stephen Koukoulas,

Commerce and Industry, says: "There is a sense that we have reached a turning point. Before the latest interest-rate cut last month, three-quarters of business actually expected interest rates to rise, which had created a tension and uncertainty. The fall in rates simply eliminated that concern. It just took it all away."

Mr Kates says that the Government's determination to eliminate the budget deficit by next year has also had a dramatic effect on sentiment within the business community. He says: "I think that was crucial. The Government has made the business environment much more amenable to growth by tackling the budget. It has cut out large slabs of unnecessary public spending."

The one fly in the ointment is Australia's high unemployment rate, which increased to 8.3 per cent over the past year and is expected to decline only slightly to about 8 per cent by mid-1998. Susan Creighton, senior economist at ABN Amro, says: "Unemployment is still very high — much higher than that in New Zealand, the UK or the US."

Government has cut out large slabs of expenditure

Stephen Roberts, senior economist at UBS Australia, says that the big stumbling block is the rigidity in the Australian labour market, where wages are still largely negotiated by collective bargaining.

He says: "There is no flexibility to negotiate wages down and it is deterring employers from taking on new labour. The labour market needs further reform."

Chris Caton, senior economist at Bankers Trust, adds: "In the short term the answer to lower unemployment is faster economic growth, but no matter how fast the economy grows, unemployment is probably not going to fall much below 7.5 per cent. In the long term, the answer is more flexibility in the labour market and that is not easy to achieve."

Steven Kates, senior economist at the Australian Chamber of

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Hands across the sea: some of the crew of Cook's Endeavour which is on a goodwill tour of the UK

One million Australians were born in Britain — four times more than in any other country — and 1.4 million Australians have a parent born in Britain. After New Zealand, Britain is still the biggest source of migrants to Australia and accounts for more than half of all the tourists from Europe.

The UK is the second biggest investor in Australia, ahead of Japan, and the third largest trading partner. Yet, despite the intensity of these contacts, both countries have perceptions based more on caricature than reality. Britons think that Australians are philistines from the outback who wear cork hats, drink gallons of lager and spend their time surfing. Australians think that the British are fuddy-duddies who live on cream teas in thatched cottages, or stuck-up Poms, striding through the City in their bowlers.

Douglas Hurd was appalled by these lingering prejudices on a visit as Foreign Minister, and decided it was time to update the image. His concern came just as the British Council was preparing to celebrate 50 years' work on Australia people-to-people programmes to build ties of language, education and history.

The result is New Images — an ambitious programme that is part

THE NEW IMAGES INITIATIVE

cultural festival, part educational exchange and part trade fair.

This year, 150 events, co-ordinated by the British Council and with strong support from British companies and foundations, are planned to update the picture. Exhibitions, performances, conferences, seminars, tours and Internet projects are reaching out into Australian schools, cities and remote areas.

The Royal Shakespeare Company has brought *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on tour. The RTZ-CKA Kaleidoscope of Life, a major exhibition of biodiversity, will tour Australia. Events focusing on David Malin and the Anglo-Australian Observatory will provide extraterrestrial images.

An exhibition of new British artists will start a national tour at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. Another will show off British theatre design: a gaggle of comedians has already tried out routines on audiences at the Melbourne comedy festival; writers, film-makers, politicians, classical and jazz musicians and industrialists are lecturing and holding forth to Australian audiences. There is punk, women's soccer and the latest in aerospace and British

motorsport. The British Council, based in Sydney, has raised special funds and diverted its budget to support the programme with almost £1 million.

The programme is reciprocal, with Australia also sending over the best in arts, music, design and industry — although on a smaller scale and with a smaller budget, having been unable, because of electoral politics, to confirm the size of its participation until the last moment.

New Images was launched by Alexander Downer, the Australian Foreign Minister, and Malcolm Rifkind, then Foreign Secretary, in February, and some of the events are already under way. It has made a greater impact in Australia than in Britain, but the arrival in the UK of the *Endeavour*, an £8 million replica of Captain Cook's ship built in Fremantle, Australia, and the exciting beginning to the Ashes has also raised Australia's profile in Britain.

Cook's ship is on a tour of the UK and drawing crowds and boosting tourism wherever it anchors. Whidby in North Yorkshire, where the original *Endeavour* was built, is already richer by about £6 million from 1 million visitors.

The participation of big companies, especially those with investments in each other's country, is vital. BT, BA, Hilton hotels, ANZ Bank in Australia, RTZ and Saatchi & Saatchi are among corporate sponsors. They want to use the best of hi-tech to give a flavour of the new technology each country hopes will become better known abroad.

One novel exhibition is the Cabinet of Curiosities, a recreation of the famous cabinet brought back by Captain Cook from his voyages. Supported by RTZ, it contains a representative sample of 200 years of Australian science, which traces its origins to the work of the British naturalist Sir Joseph Banks who sailed on *Endeavour*.

The British Council has made schools a main focus, especially the use of Internet hook-ups increasingly important in Australia where distance has been a barrier to communication.

MICHAEL BINYON

Endeavour is on exhibition at Greenock (June 28-July 6), Liverpool (July 11-20), Fishguard (July 26-August 3), Falmouth (August 9-17), Plymouth (August 23-31), Weymouth (September 6-9), Brighton (September 13-21), St Helier, Jersey (September 27-October 3).

UK in the race for Olympic contracts

THE 2000 GAMES

The staging of the next Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000 is seen by Australians as an ideal opportunity to strengthen their country's image as an innovative and welcoming member of the international community.

Much of the Olympic action will take place at a specially designed site at Homebush, ten miles west of Sydney.

For the first time all 10,200 Olympic athletes will live in one village, within walking distance of the Olympic stadium and no more than 30 minutes away from any event.

Fourteen of the 28 sporting venues have been completed and the rest are on target to be ready by the end of 1999, to allow six months of test events before the big day.

The 2000 Games will be only the second held in Australia, after Melbourne in 1956, and more than four billion people are expected to tune in.

The logistical problems are staggering. It is estimated that about 200,000 people will need to be transported in and out of the Olympics site twice a day during the 17-day event and, with no private transport allowed into the area, organisers plan to lay on a fleet of 240 buses, as well as a train service capable of carrying 50,000 people an hour.

More than A\$6 billion (about £3 billion) is being spent on improvements to the Homebush site, including the construction of a three-mile railway loop to link it to the city and the building of six miles of roads.

A ferry wharf is also being

built on the river and the Games site is being constructed with more than one eye on its future use. The Olympic village, which will house about 15,260 athletes and officials, will become a new suburb — provisionally called Newington — with 1,600 houses, that will be sold.

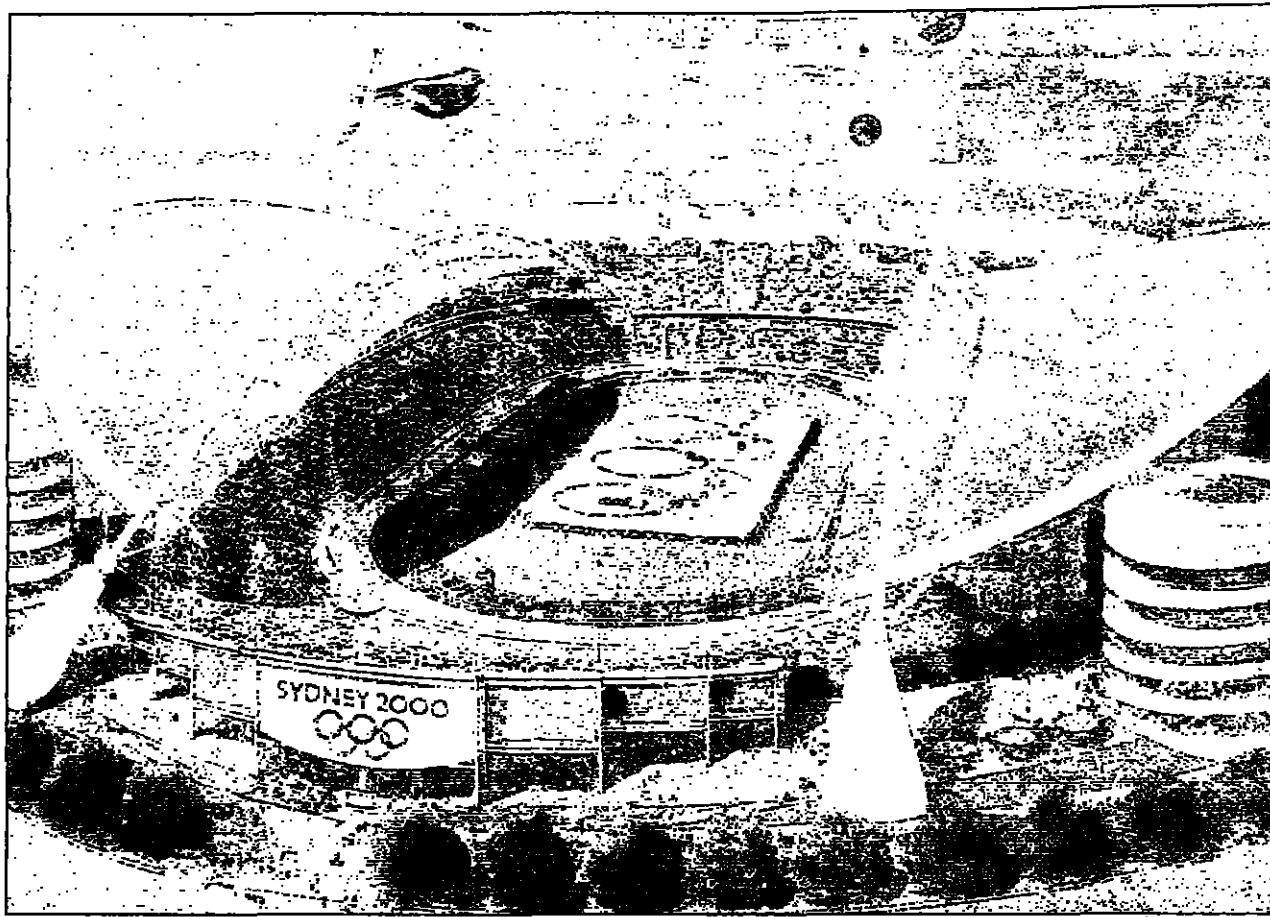
Although the big infrastructure contracts have been awarded, an estimated A\$2.3 billion worth of Olympics work is still up for grabs.

To help British companies identify opportunities to work with Australian companies in specialist areas, the Department of Trade and Industry has set up a Sydney Olympics UK Business Taskforce.

Peter Bradfield, executive director of the taskforce, says

that much of it is in areas where British companies have particular skills and specialist knowledge to offer, such as transport modelling, water and environmental management, ticketing, security and hospitality. "British companies have a lot of expertise in these areas because they have a lot of experience of managing very large sporting events both in the UK and internationally," he says.

Substantial progress has also been made in other areas. Eighteen of the 21 biggest sponsors of the Games have been signed up as Team Millennium Partners — among them Ansett, Panasonic and McDonald's, each of which is understood to have put up between A\$25 million and A\$50 million — and the remaining three sponsors are expected to come on board



A drawing of the Sydney Olympic stadium: an estimated A\$2.3 billion worth of contract work is still up for grabs

within the next few weeks. Partly because of the strong sponsorship support, the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) recently upgraded its revenue forecasts from A\$1.62 billion to A\$2.33 billion. The estimated costs have also increased, from A\$1.6 billion to A\$2.29 billion, giving a small expected surplus of A\$43 million.

The Olympics factor is working its magic in other ways. Frank Sartor, Sydney's Lord Mayor, recently unveiled a A\$200 million spending programme to give Sydney's streets, parks and public spaces a facelift in time for the Games. To be funded by a combination of state, federal and private-sector money. Another consequence is the

revitalisation of entire suburbs of residential property by improving their facilities.

Not everything has gone to plan, however, and Olympic watchers have been alarmed by a series of high-profile departures from the senior management of SOCOG over the past few months.

Two presidents and a chief executive have left the board since March 1996, one president spending just six months in the job and Mal Hemmerling, the chief executive, who made his name running the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide, leaving after less than 12 months.

Adding to the controversy has been the decision of Michael Knight, the New South Wales Olympics Minister, to

take over the SOCOG presidency last September, a move many fear could result in the Games becoming too enmeshed in state politics.

An ambitious A\$365 million public share offer to raise money to build the Olympic stadium turned into the biggest fundraising disaster in Australia's corporate history after more than two-thirds of the 34,400 Olympic gold passes on offer at A\$10,000 apiece were left unsold in the hands of the underwriters.

The good news is that passes, which guaranteed seats to all Olympic events held in the stadium, including the opening and closing ceremonies, will be offered to

overseas Olympic committees and Games sponsors.

Australia is still grappling with the question of what sort of image it would like to present to the world when it takes the stage in 2000 — and growing calls for radical changes are expected before the big day. In particular, many Australians are unhappy about the prospect of the Queen, as Australia's head of state, opening the Games. Opinion polls show that a majority would prefer an Australian to do the job.

There is also a growing movement to adopt a new Australian flag — one which does not include a Union Jack — and a new national anthem.

RACHEL BRIDGE

Where the living is easy

LIFESTYLE

Although many of the old Australian traditions still ring true — including the love of beer, beach and barbecues — the Australian lifestyle is more sophisticated now than that enjoyed by most other Western nations.

Barry McKenzie's view of Australia as a nation of lager-swilling louts is only half the story.

While there will always be a demand for gambling and strong drink in this hedonistic society, the other side of Australia reveals a surprisingly cultured people who spend more than £4 billion on the arts and entertainment.

Nearly half a billion pounds a year goes on buying books and more than £150 million is spent annually on arts and culture-related education. The Sydney Opera House bears testament to the nation's love of theatre and Australia's award-winning cinema industry belies its past reputation as a cultural desert.

Australian television has also made its mark internationally with overseas sales. Away from television, the arts and a few beers around the barbecue, the Australians have an added passion: sport.

For such a comparatively small population, Australia enjoys an extraordinary degree of success on the sports field. Australia may have lost the first Test against England, but they are still the unofficial world cricket champions, and there are few international sporting events in which Australians do not excel.



Australian seafood and wines are a gastronomic treat

The records show that Australians usually enjoy more Olympic gold medals per person than any other nation. That is largely because of a sporting tradition that starts as soon as children can walk.

Young Australians are encouraged to train and participate in organised sport before they even start school. The so-called little athletics meetings,

soccer matches, rugby tournaments and cricket games dominate every Saturday, with thousands of children being ferried by their parents from one sports oval to another.

Australia's relaxed lifestyle is the envy of the world. Enhanced by a warm climate and attractive environment, most people pursue an outdoor existence at the weekend.

Cheap food and competitively priced restaurants make dining out a much less costly exercise than in Britain and there is no doubt that the multicultural influence has benefited Australian cuisine.

Today's menus offer a unique blend of Asia and the Mediterranean, combined with an abundance of Australian vegetables and seafood, washed down with fine local wines. The result is a culinary experience that has helped to place Australia among the gastronomic elite of nations.

If there is a disadvantage to such plenty it is Australia's failure to recognise its good fortune. Listening to phone-in shows on radio stations you could be excused for thinking that this country is at war with itself. Like the British, the Australians love a good whinge and there is no shortage of targets, from meddling bureaucrats to taxation.

It is true that Australia is one of the most over-taxed and over-governed nations in the world. Metropolitan housing is also expensive, with property prices in Sydney as high as London and New York.

Even the sun has a cost: the rising incidence of skin cancer. Five thousand people a year develop the condition and nearly a thousand die. Potentially life-threatening melanomas have reached epidemic proportions, forcing bathers to cover up on the beach and schoolchildren to stay indoors during lunch breaks.

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Michael Binyon reports on why Australia is expecting 8.7 million overseas visitors a year by 2005 to enjoy its attractions

Over the rainbow to an adventure in Oz

Australia is one of those aspirational destinations forever on the list of places we would like to visit but which are seen as too far and too expensive. The thought of a 21-hour flight puts many people off. But an increasing number of Britons are finding that the long-haul flight is well worth the effort. Last year about 385,000 visited Australia, a growth of 12 per cent over 1995, and there was a further rise of 17 per cent during the first three months of this year.

Tourism, foreign and domestic, is a big earner for Australia, contributing almost \$450 billion (about £25 billion) to the economy and amounting to 6.6 per cent of gross domestic product.

Britain was the third largest market, surpassed only by tourists from New Zealand and Japan. The Japanese hold a commanding lead, with a huge increase to 1.1 million arrivals expected this year: in 1996 they spent more than \$435 billion. Appropriately, they spearhead the growing number of Asians who head for Australia's beaches, shopping centres, English language schools and European arts and culture centres.

Britons, who account for more than 50 per cent of visitors from Europe, tend to be more adventurous. Many are young and include backpackers and school-leavers taking advantage of the young people's working visa agreement, which allows students from each country to take temporary jobs and stay up to a year in Australia or two

TOURISM

years in Britain. These visitors often make for the outback and the more remote parts of the country.

Nevertheless, the total is dwarfed by the number of Australians coming to Britain. With about 600,000 arrivals last year from a population of 18 million, the figures show that, on average, one in every 32 Australians visits Britain every year.

John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, and virtually every Cabinet Minister, has spent at least a year working in Britain, giving Australians an unrivalled knowledge of the country that often translates into valuable goodwill in later careers.

Australia has one enormous advantage: being in the southern hemisphere, it enjoys summer while Europe is shivering in winter.

Spurred by the fame of the Sydney Opera House, it is also building up a strong reputation for the arts, festivals and culture.

Sydney, especially, is a city with a powerful pull, particularly for the young and for Americans. Indeed, the Mardi Gras celebration, with its exuberant gay parades, is Australia's biggest tourist attraction, bringing in more than a million visitors a year, many of whom stay throughout the February extravaganza.

The Australian Tourist Commission is eager to market the whole country rather than just the cities,

the beauty spots along the Queensland coast or the outback. Different nationalities want different things: Australians are discovering the country's Aboriginal culture, especially at Ayers Rock and in the interior; Europeans will set off for the Great Barrier Reef; and Asians tend to stick to the cities and sophisticated shopping centres.

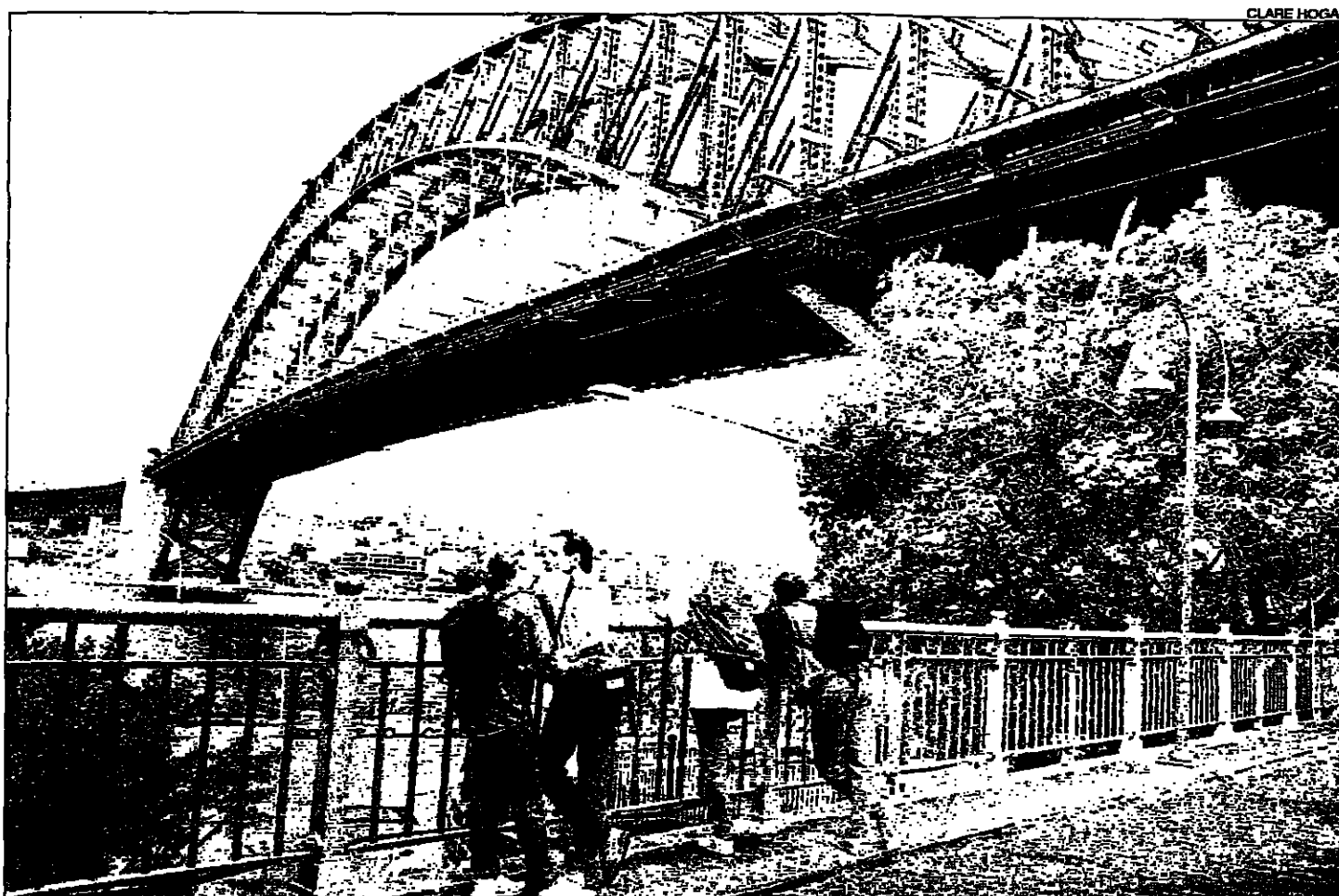
The country has always been able to rely on the pull of its immigrants, whose families visit them in their new country. The British stay an average of 45 days and spend about \$4,300 each.

Tourism is now Australia's single largest export industry, earning \$14 billion last year. New investment is due to rise to \$1.01 billion in the coming year and tourism is expected to employ 685,000 people — or 7 per cent of the workforce — by 2003. By 2005 the Tourist Commission is expecting 8.7 million visitors.

This figure will include the increasing number who take advantage of Australia's climate, space and growing reputation for wine and cuisine to hold international conventions and conferences. At the start of the year, Australia had secured 876 conventions to be held between 1996 and 2006, with an average of 744 delegates to each.

"Visitors are always surprised that there is so much to do here," says John Morse, managing director of the Tourist Commission.

"It's just a matter of getting them on the aircraft. Once they come, they'll come back."



Bridging the gap year: many young Britons take advantage of the reciprocal visa agreement to enjoy an extended working holiday

Drink a toast to exports

Australia's award-winning wine is the one product which has done more than anything else to transform Australia's image in the UK, Rachel Bridge writes.

Australian wine exports to the UK, non-existent a few years ago, totalled \$250 million (about £125 million) last year — 72 million litres in volume — an increase of 39 per cent on the previous 12-month period. Not only that, but one Australian wine — Orlando Wyndham's Jacobs Creek — is now the most popular in the UK.

Almost half of Australian wine exports go to the UK and the Australian industry expects to increase its share of the UK market to 10 per cent within the next few years. Demand is so high that when the 1995 vintage failed to produce the expected volumes

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Australian wine makers asked British supermarkets to give them less space on their shelves to avoid running out of stock.

Pat Durney, international business manager at Southcorp Wines, explains: "People know that when they pick up a bottle of Australian wine they are guaranteed something which is of good consistent quality, is good value for money and is very approachable. Australian wine has gone from being a novelty item to being a mainstream product because people feel that they are getting a lot of bang for their buck."

Perry Gunter, chairman of Orlando Wyndham, was one of the first to begin selling Australian wine to the UK, back in 1986. He says: "The

wine industry has really helped to change the image of Australia overseas. Australia was seen as being all about beaches and deserts, but Australian wine is all about quality and the good things in life. It has been very good for Australia's image. It has gone way beyond our expectations."

Wine is not the only export industry to have been transformed by Australia. The country once known mainly for its sheep and gold has undergone a quiet revolution in the type of products it sells overseas.

Paul Twomey, executive general manager of Australia's trade and development body Austrade, says: "Over the past 10-15 years there has been a significant change in the content of Australian exports. These are now divided into a quarter minerals, a quarter raw products, a quarter manufactures and a quarter services. If you went back 10 years ago, rural products accounted for almost 40 per cent."

"The big growth has been in specialised manufacturing and services. For example, Australia is the world leader in fast-ferry manufacturing, that's an industry that has

come from nowhere in the past few years and now has a 30 per cent share of the world market. And we now export more information technology than we do wheat. There has been a very big shift."

The other major shift of the past 15 years has been the big increase in the amount of trade with Asia.

Mr Twomey says: "Back in 1974, exports to Europe, the US and Asia were about equal. Now, however, East Asia alone accounts for nearly two-thirds of Australia's total exports. The trade to Asia has just gone through the roof. If you go through the list of top 12 country export markets, nine are in East Asia."

"Korea, for example, has gone from No 23 to No 2 of our export destinations behind Japan, while our office in Jakarta has just gone insane in the past five years. I think we will see a big expansion in services such as education, health services, financial services and information technology."

Despite this, the UK remains one of Australia's largest trading partners. Exports to the UK jumped by 11 per cent to \$42.12 billion in 1995 and by a further 18 per cent in the first 11 months of 1996. Much of that growth has been in manufactured goods such as transport equipment.

Sharp edge of discovery

In the past few months alone Australian scientists have unveiled a raft of ground-breaking achievements, Rachel Bridge writes.

They include the world's first microscopic nano-machine which will enable diseases to be instantly detected; the development of a world-leading ceramic fuel cell, which has been hailed as the power source of the future; and an automated diagnosis machine to detect skin cancer.

Such scientific advances are not normally associated with a country better known for its mining and agricultural skills. But Australia has a long and distinguished history of scientific endeavour which dates back to Howard Florey's work with penicillin earlier this century — and culminated with the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine being awarded to Peter Doherty for his work on human immunology at the John Curtin school of medical research in Canberra.

Australians have also proved to be some of the most enthusiastic embracers of new technological advances — the country has one of the highest take-up rates of mobile phones and the Internet in the world, and is regularly used as a test market for new high-technology products.

Australia's main areas of expertise owe much to its

SCIENCE

unique environment and isolation. As well as telecommunications, Australia is leading the world in plant and agricultural sciences, earth and environmental science, biology and medicine.

Julian Cribb, director of National Awareness at Australia's national research body, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), explains: "Australia's vastness and its unique ecosystem means that we have had to come up with ways of preserving the fragile balance here — and we are now finding that the solutions to those problems are in great demand worldwide."

He says that one of the particular strengths of Australian research has been its ability to draw on ideas from all scientific disciplines — the nanomachine combined the disciplines of physics and biology.

"By using the knowledge and insight of scientists from a wide range of disciplines we are able to think laterally and not get boxed in to a particular way of doing things," he says. Australia has been particu-

larly good at finding practical, low-technology solutions to highly scientific problems, he says, making them especially suitable for use in developing countries. Australian scientists, for example, recently developed a hardy heat-resistant vaccine to combat disease in poultry which can be stored in wheat to feed animals in remote villages.

Over the years there has also built up a strong tradition of collaboration between Australia and Britain, most notably in the development of the Anglo-Australian telescope in New South Wales which was jointly funded by the two countries and provides equal access to astronomers from Britain and Australia.

A recent breakthrough in the mystery of how plants feed

themselves was also the result of collaboration between CSIRO scientists and a British team led by Dr David Clarkson at Long Ashton laboratory. There are also more than 400 formal or informal links between British and Australian universities.

In medical research, too, Australia has been chalking up some notable advances. The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, one of Australia's leading research bodies, is conducting important programmes in four areas: cancer — particularly breast and prostate cancer — osteoporosis, diabetes, and neurobiology.

Professor John Shine, executive director, says: "Australia has a very definite seat at the international medical research table, on a par internationally with the best as far as the quality of our research goes."

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The Task Force's Sydney-based Executive Director, Peter Bradfield, will be amongst those speaking about business opportunities arising from the Sydney Olympic Games.

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To maintain and develop the industry, more than 30 Australian universities are offering IT&T degrees and delivering 8,500 graduates a year.

FACTBOX ON AUSTRALIA

Population: 18.2 million.
New South Wales: 6.9m (capital: Sydney, 3.4m).
Victoria: 4.4m (capital: Melbourne, 2.9m).
Queensland: 3.2m (capital: Brisbane, 1.3m).
Western Australia: 1.4 million (capital: Perth, 1.2m).
South Australia: 1.4m (capital: Adelaide, 1m).
Tasmania: 473,000 (capital: Hobart, 183,550).
Australian Capital Territory: 303,900 (Canberra, 286,000).
Northern Territory: 173,500 (capital: Darwin, 73,000).

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CRICKET

Dogged Atherton cast in mould of Hutton and May

MICHAEL ATHERTON will be leading England for the 42nd time in a Test match at Lord's today, not to mention the 44 one-day internationals in which he has also captained them. The figure has a significance because, until now, Peter May, with 41 Test matches in charge, held the record for England. Allan Border had the stamina, skill and stoicism to lead Australia in 93 Tests and an exorbitant 178 one-day internationals. From a selection of other England captains, W.G. Grace led them 13 times, Douglas Jardine 15 times, Sir Leonard Hutton 21 times and Michael Brearley and Ray Illingworth each 31 times. What these figures show is the increasing intensity of the job, though not the increasing demands made upon the incumbent. To make a success of it, anyway statistically, it is essential to be able to call upon one or more of the best bowlers in the world, which of the captains I have mentioned, only Atherton has not been in a position to do.

Even to survive in the job for any length of time it is necessary, these days, to be mentally and physically resilient. May and Hutton were both worn down by it. To keep going, as Atherton does, argues the staunchest of temperaments and considerable self-possession. He is not the great batsman that Hutton and May were, and as a tactician he reflects the greater uniformity of the modern game. I expect it was this that moved Fred Titmus to criticise Atherton's captaincy in somewhat extravagant terms earlier this week.

Without Atherton, however, England's chances of recovering the Ashes would be very much reduced. His players are shoulder to shoulder behind him, and he will spare himself nothing in going after the great prize. His batting average when he has been in charge is 46.52, and there is no possibility of achieving that against all the best bowlers in the game, without being very good indeed.

Atherton has always driven well through the covers and tucked the ball away adroitly and productively off his toes, and two or three hooks that he played off McGrath and Gillespie in the one-day interna-

JOHN WOODCOCK



Test Match Commentary

tional at the Oval were not so much good strokes as brilliant ones. Above all, though, it is his ability to concentrate and never to let go that makes him the Test cricketer that he is.

May's first England captain was F.R. Brown, but the influence that made much the strongest impression on him was Hutton's, under whom he played 20 of his first 22 Test matches. Hutton yielded nothing and risked nothing. To him, Test cricket against Australia was not played for fun. The Australians were hard men who played a hard game and were hard to beat. To Hutton, "that nice Mr Miller", as he sometimes called him with a twinkle in his eye, was the devil incarnate when he ran in to bowl. May and Hutton would have approved of Atherton, both as a captain and a player. He is just their type — stubborn and steadfast. But neither of them would have declared on Graeme Hick when he was 98 not out in a Test match at Sydney — the saddest moment

HOW THEY COMPARE

Peter May
Captaincy record: matches 41, won 20, lost 10, drawn 11. Batting record: As captain: 11 matches, 66 runs, 3,080, average 54.01. Hundreds: 10 (highest score 285 not out v West Indies, Edgbaston, 1957). Overall: matches 66, runs 3,146, average 47.97. Hundreds: 8 (highest score 185 not out v South Africa, Johannesburg, 1955-56). Overall: matches 66, runs 3,146, average 47.97. Hundreds: 8 (highest score 185 not out).

Michael Atherton
Captaincy record: matches 41, won 11, lost 13, drawn 17. Batting record: As captain: 11 matches, 73 runs, 2,310, average 47.97. Hundreds: 8 (highest score 185 not out v South Africa, Johannesburg, 1955-56). Overall: matches 66, runs 3,146, average 47.97. Hundreds: 8 (highest score 185 not out).

and most ill-conceived decision that I ever saw on a cricket ground.

Like Atherton, May was 25 when he took on the England side. He had the job thrust upon him, and had had no first-class experience of captaincy. But he had Trueman and Statham and Bailey and Tyson and Laker and Lock to bowl for him, and Alec Bedser to dispense words of wisdom and Denis Compton to play the occasional special twilight innings. Of May's 41 Tests as captain, England won 20 and lost 10. Perhaps his most blithesome hour came at Old Trafford in 1956, when Laker routed Australia with his 19 wickets for 90 runs and the Ashes were retained.

May was never one for the limelight. Although unfailingly polite, he was not a natural communicator. Off the field he could make himself very scarce. But his players knew where they stood with him; they never doubted his loyalty so long as they tried their hardest. Like Atherton again, May was not generally impressed by the press. Atherton does, in fact, write a newspaper column, something May would never have entertained; but to some extent that is because he is the more cerebral of the two. As the England captain in Australia in 1958-59, May had to contend with a nest of Australian throwers; in West Indies the following winter his health broke down, and at 32, when still a wonderful player, he had had enough.

Atherton, for his part, inherited no star players. If there is a way in which that could be said to have been an advantage, it has done nothing for his record. If he had had a Botham or a Willis as Brearley did, or an Underwood or a Snow as Illingworth did, England, under him, would have won more than 11 Tests. But a broader intellect than most, an acquired love of fly fishing as a means of escape, a calculated imperviousness and boundless tenacity have all helped to keep him going, and, after the last Test match, it was not the England captain who looked dishevelled. So a special cheer, please, for Michael Atherton when he goes out to open the England innings in this Test at Lord's, even from those who have yet to be won over!

Healy proves a hard man to keep down

Simon Wilde hears the Australia wicketkeeper defend gamesmanship on the cricket field

A West Indies Test player once said of Ian Healy, Australia's craggy wicketkeeper: "He is a difficult man to ignore." This was deliberately something of an understatement, given Healy's supposed reputation for getting under the skin of opponents. It is a reputation that Healy, who plays his nineteenth Test match today at Lord's, does not entirely disown.

"I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of times I have sledged in Test cricket," he said, "but I admit I like to be in the thick of things. I like the image of the craggy keeper and I'm hard to keep down. If I don't do well one day, I'll be back the next. I'm competitive and aggressive and, sure, I'll fire up in tight situations."

"I do not think there is a place for sledging, but there is one for what I would call gamesmanship. Saying something that is not abusive but may change a batsman's thinking is OK. Short leg saying 'this batsman looks nervous' might help unsettle him. I do not condone sledging."

To distinguish between gamesmanship and sledging may sound to some like convenient semantics, but there is plenty of evidence to suggest that the elder statesman of the Australian team — he is 33 — is mis-labelled. For a start, he is far too charming a fellow off the field, surely, to be the spitting cobra of legend on it.

Healy is an advocate of forthright but fair cricket, which is the image one has of Australia under Mark Taylor. There is a notion that the team is somehow a less aggressive outfit under Taylor than it was in the later years of Allan Border's stewardship. "I know this is a popular perception, but it is simply not true," Healy said.

According to Healy, Australia have been winning Test matches for the past four years by building big totals and giving their bowlers the chance to bowl the way they want to the fields they want, and leaving the opposition in the unpleasant position of knowing that, if they play well, they might — might — scrape a draw. Knowing that



Healy warms up at Lord's as he prepares to make his nineteenth Test appearance

Australia cannot lose must be as comforting to them as it is disconcerting to the opposition.

Denying them access to this comfort zone appears to be the best way to undermine them: as West Indies and South Africa amply demonstrated during the winter, they are vulnerable in conditions in which the ball is

doing something. And it certainly worked for England in the first Test at Edgbaston two weeks ago, where Australia were all out in two and a half hours on the first day for 118.

"We could have grafted better," Healy said. "We were being rolled over, but we should have eked out more runs. We would have done

better to think in terms of getting to 200 rather than still thinking in terms of 300. That would have taken some of the pressure off."

"But we are not good at getting our heads down when we are up against it and do not always get the draws we should. That said, Test cricket must either end in a result on the fifth day or end in a

tight draw, otherwise it will not keep up with society." Australia's two-year spell without a drawn Test match is cited as evidence of Taylor's positive approach, but perhaps owes much to their own frailties.

If England bowl first at Lord's today, they should need no greater incentive to dismiss Australia cheaply than the chance once again to deny Shane Warne the luxury of bowling to attacking fields. Whether he is physically or technically capable of taking advantage of a large Australia total is now a moot point.

Though Warne admits to feeling jaded after his immense workload of recent years, Healy refuses to be drawn into discussing the bowler with whom he has formed such a successful partnership. Healy's stature as a wicketkeeper has been enhanced by his ability to keep for his versatile leg spinner, and he has played his part in keeping Warne's methods shrouded in mystery.

"I don't want to talk about

"I could count on the fingers of one hand the number of times I have sledged in Tests"

Shane's bowling," he said. "I've talked about it so often in the past. There is nothing more to say." And, in saying that, he said a lot.

Healy has set no time frame for his retirement but wants to leave on his own terms and in Australia. It could happen early next year, at the end of a home series with South Africa. By then he will have become the first wicketkeeper to play in 100 official Test matches and should have passed Rod Marsh's world record of 355 dismissals. To date, he has 308 in 89 matches.

He will not want to go without keeping a hand on the Ashes, though, and admits to finding England a different team on this tour. "There is something there that has changed," he said. "They are obviously playing as a team and for their country, rather than as individuals. Of course, we know about our record at Lord's, but do not want to think about past history or anything else that might distract us from the purpose of leveling the series."

Brown responds to rattle of Worcestershire teacups

By JACK BAILEY

WORCESTER (first day of four: Surrey won toss): Surrey have scored 382 for seven wickets against Worcestershire

ALTHOUGH this New Road pitch was not as hard and bouncy as most of those at the Oval, it was sufficiently welcoming to make Surrey's batsmen feel at home. To complete the friendly feeling, Worcestershire's depleted bowling resources lacked the sharp edge to cut through a sense of comfort that was established early on.

Having said that, neither Alistair Brown nor Jason Ratcliffe could have batted much better in scoring 179 from 38 overs for the fourth Surrey wicket. Nor could Ratcliffe have asked for better conditions in which to make a career-best 135, his first century for Surrey.

As for Brown, well, his second championship century of the season was within three balls of being made between lunch and tea; it came from 107 balls, with two sixes and 10

fours the plums in a very rich pudding.

Before he was taken at mid-wicket, Graeme Hick's third catch of the innings, Brown was beginning to enjoy himself hugely. Leatherdale's line and length had been among Worcestershire's few assets. Now, he was plundered for 14 in an over, including a large six into the executive dining-room. Brown had already rattled the tiles on the roof of the Ladies' Pavilion, when tea was being taken.

Throughout the day, Worcestershire's bowlers tended to have trouble in finding a good length, although Brown's ability to hit hard off front foot and back left no margin for error.

Surrey were at least prevented from pulling right away. Although not quite the thoroughbred his name would imply, Sheriary is a good stayer. He accounted for both Ratcliffe and Brown, as well as Ben Hollis, who looked somewhat out of place coming in at the fall of the second wicket in a four-day match.

Freedom of stroke is his trademark and it would be wrong to discourage him. Yet he had hardly had time to assess the pace of the pitch before he essayed a wristy stroke and Leatherdale snapped up the catch at cover point.

Day in, day out, you do not find many more wholehearted contributors than Worcestershire's Stuart Lampitt. He it was who took the first two wickets, those of Kennis and Shahid, both with the expert assistance of Hick in the slips. But by the time Hick again illustrated that there is no safer pair of hands in the game by catching Brown, Surrey were well on their way to a handsome total, despite some searching bowling by Leatherdale.

He moved the ball away from the right-hander off the seam and even when he was past his half-century, Ratcliffe was left sparring outside the off stump. You could see how Leatherdale came to take five wickets for ten runs against the Australians.

Byas gives Johnson cause for reflection

By RICHARD HOBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 359 runs behind Yorkshire

CAPTAINCY can be the making of some players, while others regress in the very areas that brought them promotion. David Byas under-achieved in that he failed to reach 1,000 runs last season, his first as the Yorkshire skipper, but something will have to go horribly wrong for him to miss out for a second summer.

His hundred against Nottinghamshire yesterday was his third of the season and by some distance the most important. Called to the middle when Richard Kettleborough fell to the ninth ball of the day, he planted his right leg down the pitch, resisted anything that moved away outside his off stump and swatted away the looser deliveries with some aplomb.

Already there is a formidable appearance about the Yorkshire total of 364. By

including an extra batsman, Nottinghamshire conveyed much about their expectations of the surface. Yet, while Evans and Bowen found some assistance, they struggled to hit a consistent line. Evans, whose best spell was his last, will bowl better and return worse figures than his six for 91.

The only semblance of a chance offered by Byas, before he reached his century in 21 minutes, came when he drove Astle close to Robinson at mid-off. Otherwise he was untroubled and had his 14 fours, and a six before his innings came to an inappropriately tame end when he drove Astle to Johnson, who accepted a good low catch at mid-on. At last, the Nottinghamshire captain had reason to smile, having inserted Yorkshire in the first place.

Byas received sound support from Moxon in a second-wicket stand of 103 and had another substantial partnership, one of 135 in 29 overs, with Lehmann, who scored the seventh half-century of his first county season.

Lewis keeps Kent at bay with belligerent century

By IVO TENNANT

DARLINGTON (first day of four: Durham won toss): Durham have scored 215 for seven wickets against Kent

BY DINT of winning four matches in succession, Kent, as their travelling radio reporter put it in homely speech, have swept to the top of the county championship table. Other than Sussex, the sides they have beaten have not shown a great deal of resolve.

Yesterday, though, they were unable to rid themselves of one Durham batsman, Jonathan Lewis, who stayed in all day, and whose concentration and application were exemplary.

His unbeaten century was all the more praiseworthy because nobody else made more than 26. Durham, who won the toss on a slow pitch, in conditions that did not assist any bowler, collapsed to 127 for seven before Boiling gave Lewis the support that he deserved. Kent bowled and fielded for much of the day like the confident and competent side they are.

Lewis knows his limitations and bats consciously within them. He has not become as good a batsman as Essex thought he would be when he made a century on his championship debut for them against Surrey. He could not hold down a regular place and, at the age of 27, has had to look elsewhere to succeed.

The lack of bite in the pitch was to his advantage. Headley, playing his first championship match for a month, deserved more than one wicket. McCague's pace was likewise nullified and a good deal of the bowling was entrusted to Strang and Fleming, who took two wickets apiece.

There were three stoppages for rain in the afternoon, although none affected Lewis's concentration.

Throughout the day, Durham had a struggle to score at more than two runs an over. They play at Feethams, in the lee of the football pylons, in two out of three seasons, and the pitches are invariably slow. Strang had to rely on

flight and guile. In his second over, after Durham had already lost Collingwood, he had Morris caught at silly point off a quicker one of yorker length and, next ball, bowled Speak behind his legs.

The attempted shot was a sweep, which was too ambitious for a batsman palpably out of form. In the next over, Boon, who like Speak had not scored, failed to get to the pitch of one outside off stump from McCague and edged to second slip.

When Speight was held at gully off Headley, Durham were 76 for five. Fleming accounted for Foster through a sharp catch at first slip by Wells, and held a chipped shot from Betts in his follow through, but Lewis remained.

He collected a good number of his 15 fours through cover drives and working the ball off his legs. When he did play and miss, he was unconcerned. With Boiling, he added an unbroken 88 for the eighth wicket, in the course of which he reached his first championship century for Durham.

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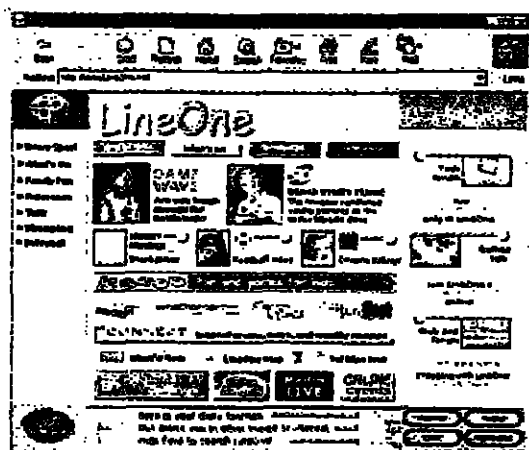
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Running story as old as the hills

Anyone who travelled the narrow mid-Wales mountain road between Builth Wells and Brecon at the weekend might have been baffled by a strange and colourful sporting scene.

Sleeper vans and roof-racked cars perched perilously on every verge and men and women dressed for sporting action urged on competitors flogging their way endlessly uphill. It might have been a stage from the Tour de France after someone had stolen all the bikes. But this was a long-distance relay.

Such an event is far more than a foot race. It is a combined camp-out and endurance orgy. This was the Welsh Castles Relay, a two-day race of around 210 miles from Caernarvon to Cardiff, swooping up and down hillsides and valleys and taking in the pride of Welsh castles.

Races such as this are as old as the sport of running. In Ancient Greece there was a form of relay race called the "Lampadedromia", which translates as "running with a lighted torch". These spectacles were staged dramatically after dark, between teams that were either on foot or mounted on horseback.

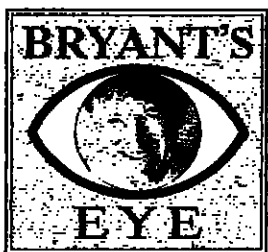
The lighted torch was passed from hand to hand and the penalty for a dropped "baton" could include a whipping or worse, rather than simple disqualification.

Accounts of these torch relays were behind the introduction of the Olympic flame from the site of the ancient games in Olympia to the venue of the modern Games. Such ritual may seem to reek of antiquity, but the traditional Olympic torch relay was dreamt up more recently, as a propaganda exercise for the Nazi Olympics of Berlin in 1936.

Relay running in its present form, with batons rather than flaming torches, emerged in the United States towards the end of the nineteenth century, with a two-mile relay being staged in 1883 at Berkeley, California.

The first such event in Britain was organised in 1895 by the Ranelagh Harriers, who still operate out of a pub near the Thames in Surrey. This was styled a "Flying Squadron Race" and was held at Stamford Bridge, in west London.

Such races were immensely popular with competitors and spectators and the Olympics



jumped on the relay bandwagon in 1908, when a men's relay appeared on the programme for the first time. The women had to wait until the Games of 1928 in Amsterdam before they got theirs. Nowadays, the last afternoon of the Olympics normally includes a number of relay races that rank among the highlights of the meeting.

Forty years ago, relay racing strode firmly out of the athletic stadium when something of a craze for bizarre, long-distance relay running was started by a bunch of Oxford students who set off on a "pebble relay" from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The idea was simple enough: they picked up a pebble at Land's End and passed it from hand to hand like a baton as they ran from one end of the country to the other.

The achievement soon attracted challengers, and teams of ten runners from as far

apart as Exeter and Aberdeen took turns at lowering the record. They would travel, eat and sleep in battered buses, frequently losing their way and the odd runner en route.

The Welsh Castles Relay, sponsored by PowerGen, fiercely contested over the weekend and won by Bridgend AC, is the grandchild of such casually organised adventures. But this race takes no chances with haphazard routes and timetables. With 20 stages over two days and with almost 1,000 runners in 45 teams taking part, precision has to rule.

The Castles race has been going since 1982, and, in its infancy, the standard relay format was used with each runner handing over to the next at a change-over point. The runners ran non-stop through the night, over Welsh mountains and the Brecon Beacons.

The race now takes place in stages, each of about ten miles and each with its own timed mile. This gives it the air of a multi-stage cycle race, an impression reinforced by a second contest within the main race. Six of the toughest and steepest legs carry a special team award for the "Kings

and Queens of the Mountains".

The backdrop of the Welsh landscape, and a clutch of picture-book castles, would be enough to give this race a unique flavour. However, the real reward is that relay racing gives the competitors a taste of shared adventure like no other form of running.

In most big road races these days it is easy to become anonymous, just another bobbing head in the crowd at mass-participation events such as the Flora London Marathon. It is easy to hide. If you have a bad run, that is your own problem. Even if you drop out not many will notice.

In a relay, however, it is very different. You run with the hopes and fears of your team pinned firmly to your vest. Your failure is their failure. Your success is a part of the team's success.

You pursue a common goal and share an achievement that outruns the scope of individual ambition. To do this across country that is colourful and challenging is an inspiring bonus. The challenges do not come any more colourful or enjoyable than the 200 miles of the Welsh Castles country.

JOHN BRYANT

TENNIS: FRENCH OPEN CHAMPION AND STAR ATTRACTION MAKE EARLY EXITS AT EASTBOURNE

Majoli upset at losing centre stage

By JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

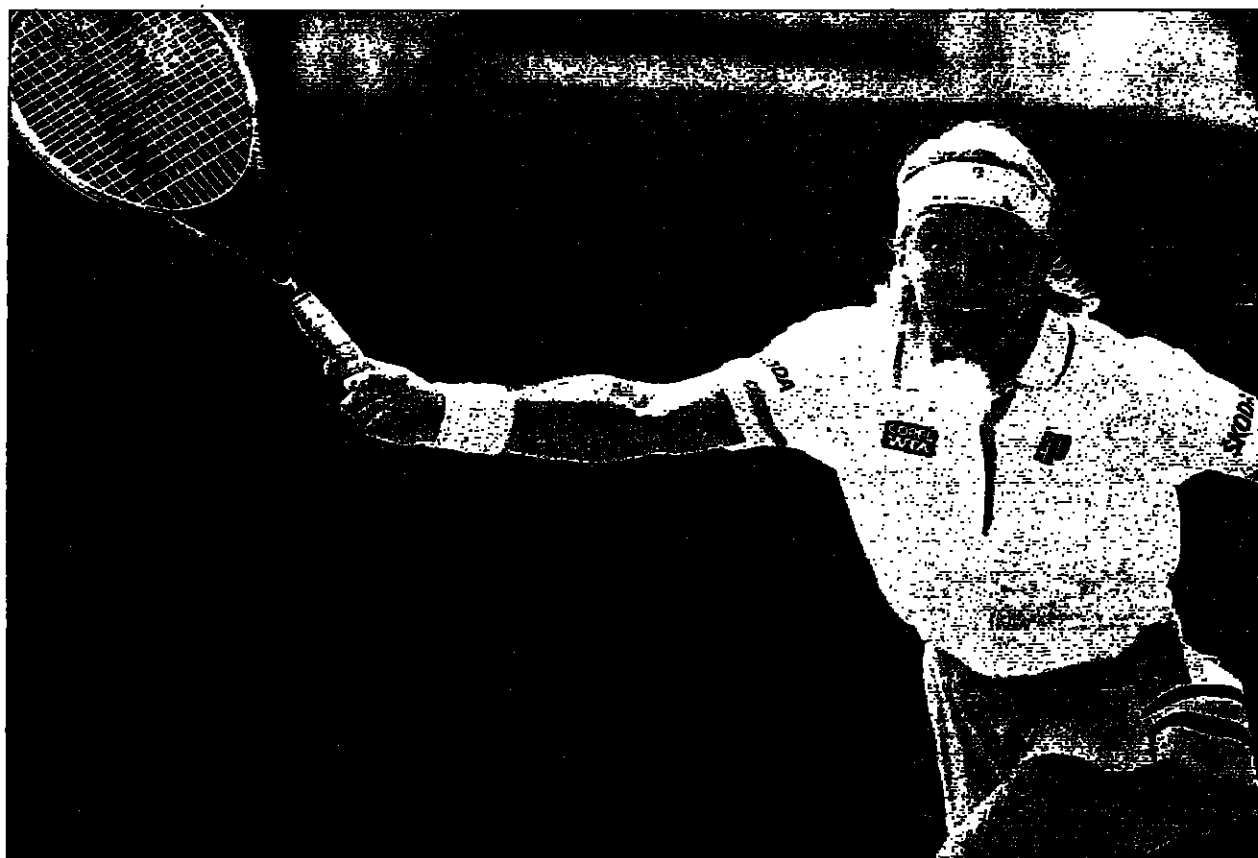
A STRAW poll would most readily associate the phrase "respect for the sisterhood" with Venus Williams, the black teenager from California. Perhaps Williams has been accorded a little too much respect in the Direct Line championships at Eastbourne.

While she graced the Centre Court, Iva Majoli, the French Open champion, seeded No 3, was humiliated 6-2, 7-5 by

Pat Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon champion, scraped through the second round of qualifying for this year's tournament with a 4-6, 6-2, 11-9 victory over Steve Campbell, of the United States, after being 3-5 down in the final set.

Natasha Zvereva in their second-round match on the relative wasteland of No 2 Court. Majoli did not like it one bit and her resentment boiled over in the ensuing press conference.

"Let me ask you a question," she said. "Who won the French Open?" At the mention of her name, Majoli, 19, suggested: "Maybe someone should tell that to the referee and the tournament organisers so that they might have a bit more respect for me. I expected they would put me



Novotna is a study in concentration as she keeps her eye on the ball during the victory over Basuki yesterday

on Centre Court. Even if my dog had won the French Open he would have deserved to play on the Centre Court."

Majoli's frustration was understandable given her fine performance in Paris. How-

ever, respect is earned, not demanded and Majoli, from Croatia, cannot command the attention surrounding Williams' every appearance. George Hendon, the tournament director, was suitably armed to defend the decision.

"The public were fascinated by Venus Williams," he said. "If I tried to put her match on an outside court I'd be guilty of getting 5,000 on the gate and accommodation for only five or six hundred on Court Two."

Majoli cannot have been mentally prepared for the match and she suffered accordingly. Williams, by contrast, seemed to have the upper hand against Nathalie Tauziat until the latter, stung by a warning for receiving instructions from her coach, reeled off 12 of the last 15 points to win 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

If unconventional in style, Williams has much of the armoury of a grass-court specialist. Her serve and groundstrokes carry weight and she is one of the few on the Tour with a telling drive volley. However, in this first tournament on grass, she was undermined by her own greenness and her opponent's experience.

Williams felt she had not been aggressive enough, although a high proportion of her losing points stemmed directly from her uncompromised hitting. Despite this defeat she has the scope to do well at Wimbledon. She is exciting to watch, even if, at 6ft 2in, she digs out half-volleys with the ease of a young giraffe straining for pasture.

Tauziat, of France, the winner here two years ago, relied principally on length, making occasional but telling sorties to

the net. She was annoyed by the umpire's warning at the start of the ninth game in the deciding set — even if she admitted that the censure had helped her.

"When Mrs Hings sits beside the court and talks to her daughter [Martina], nobody gives her a warning or anything," she said. Of her angry gesture towards the umpire's chair at the end of the game in question, she said: "I did it because I was in a rage." On this evidence, perhaps Tauziat should get angry more often.

Monica Seles and Jana Novotna, seeded one and two respectively, went through to the quarter-finals with bloodless victories. Seles beat Naoko Sawamatsu, of Japan, 6-2, 7-5; Novotna, of the Czech Republic, beat Yayuk Basuki, of Indonesia, 7-5, 6-4.

GOLF

Alcott refuses to bend the knee to her rivals

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN EVIAN, FRANCE

AMY ALCOTT spent nearly two months contemplating her patella at the turn of the year but yesterday, in the first round of the Evian Masters, the former women's US Open champion produced a performance that was reminiscent of her heyday.

The 41-year-old American, who had a run of five consecutive birdies from the 5th, also birdied the last to share the lead with Joanne Morley, from Cheshire, on 67, five under par. Both were one stroke ahead of Alison Nicholas, who chipped in from 12 yards for an eagle three at the 18th.

Annika Sorenstam, the world No 1, and Laura Davies, the defending champion, scored 74 after struggling on the greens.

Morley, now a regular on the US tour, spent a couple of weeks at home watching her mother on the bowling green, before competing in the Swiss Open at Lausanne last week. She finished eighth, and then crossed the lake to Evian,

where a sparkling finish of birdie, birdie, eagle matched the setting. At the 465-yard 18th, she hit a driver and a five-wood to 18 feet.

Alcott has been on the verge of the Hall of Fame since 1991, when she won the Nabisco Dinah Shore for the third time. It was her 29th title and she needs one more to join the elite.

On December 13 last year, Alcott hit the ground outside an office building in downtown Los Angeles and cracked her left kneecap. She spent seven and a half weeks with the knee immobilised and is just delighted to be playing golf again, let alone scoring well.

Jan Woosnam, the winner last year, and Bernhard Langer, who has won the event five times, held a strong field for the Volvo German Open, which starts at Schloss Nippenberg ETC, near Stuttgart, today.

Evian scores, page 49

BOXING

Henry in critical condition

CHRIS HENRY, the Tottenham cruiserweight who was taken to Old Church Hospital, Romford, after being seriously injured during a bout in Cheshunt on Tuesday night, was in a "critical but stable condition" yesterday evening, a hospital spokeswoman said (Srikumar Sen writes).

Henry was taken to the hospital in the ambulance which attended the promotion within 20 minutes of his collapse in the tenth round of the Southern Area championship contest with Dominic Negus. He later underwent brain surgery to remove a blood clot.

The rest of the bill was called off by Frank Maloney, the promoter, as soon as the seriousness of Henry's condition was realised. An inquiry by the Southern Area Council of the British Boxing Board of Control, attended by Maloney and Henry's manager, Jess Harding, will be held early next month.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Not quite a runway success

Airport
BBC1, 8.30pm (not Scotland)

Three more stories from Heathrow will provide a very enjoyable for anybody who has suffered from the delays and frustrations of air travel. It is nobody's fault that fog descends, causing the incoming Air Jamaica flight to be diverted to Prestwick. The trouble is that it is the airline's only flight and 168 passengers have turned up to take the same plane back to the Caribbean. Merla, Air Jamaica's station manager, has to sort it out. Meanwhile there is more trouble for poor Jeremy, the Aeroflot supervisor we met last week. The Moscow Symphony Orchestra is flying home for a concert and the entire string section has gone missing. And while Michelle, another familiar face from episode one, tries for a promotion to duty officer, she auditioned for the job by dealing with an irate traveller and a nasty mess on the floor.

Bliss
ITV, 8.30pm

Some may feel that these tales built around Simon Shepherd's immunologist, Dr Sam Bliss, work better when they forget about dabbling in pseudoscience and stick to being thrillers. At any rate, both strands are well represented tonight when Dr Bliss's daughter Zoe (Sarah Smart) sees a woman on a train who has been murdered. Oddly, the police can find neither body nor blood. But a couple of days later a woman is found dead exactly as Zoe described. A parapsychologist (Kate Buffery) is pulled in to air her theories and to carry out tests on Zoe's brain. More compellingly a serial rapist and killer is at large, and Zoe has a premonition that he will strike again. Believe the story or not, you have to concede that it builds into a stirring climax as the killer is brought out into the open.

Banged Up: Barred Love
Channel 4, 9pm

The cameras go inside Britain and Wandsworth prisons to discover how male inmates keep relationships going when their women are on the outside. Or simply manage without women at all. The jocular answer comes from Jimmy, serving 12 years for attempted murder. His recipe is pin-ups of Cindy Crawford and a good imagination.



Rhys Jones, Mel Smith (BBC1, 10pm)

Michael admits that he gets paranoid about his girlfriend going out with another man but is confident that his ladykilling charm will keep her in line. Although Richard is six years into a nine-year stretch for armed robbery, he has not only managed to maintain the relationship with his partner, Lisa, but fathered two children with her since he has been inside. With sex banned in prison this may sound impossible, but all is revealed. Kate Cordell's film is one of a season of programmes about life in British prisons.

Smith and Jones
BBC1, 10pm

Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones, the Hardy and Laurel (at least physically) of British comedy, are back after a gap of two years. Somehow it seems longer, if only because their humour seems a generation away from that of younger comedians such as Phil Kay or Harry Hill or even *The Fast Show* team who similarly rely on a fast-moving assembly of sketches. But if Smith and Jones are a throwback to an earlier era, their comedy is no less valid or welcome. Several new regular characters are introduced, which also sees a return of the pair's most celebrated item, the head-to-head. The exact contents of tonight's programme were not settled at time of writing, but it will be surprising if the line-up does not include spoofs of *Riverdance* and of *Food and Drink*'s over-the-top wine experts, Jilly and Oz. Peter Wainwright

RADIO CHOICE

Relatively Speaking
Radio 4, 9.30am

When Emma Norman began reviewing videos for *Radio Times*, one wondered if there could be a connection between this Norman and the one called Barry who occupied an adjacent page. Yes, Emma is the daughter of Barry, but offspring are as entitled to follow their parents into journalism as they are to follow them down a coalmine (two trades that are not as disconnected as might be thought). *Relatively Speaking* has been a most interesting, and at times moving, series and the Normans are frank about their relationship. Emma feels she shamed her father by falling pregnant, aged 29, without a partner: she had twins, one of whom died. If the pregnancy had caused strain, the death brought the Normans together.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley 2.00 Nicky 3.00 Ken 4.00 Ken 5.00 Ken 6.00 Ken 7.00 Ken 8.00 Ken 9.00 Ken 10.00 Ken 11.00 Ken 12.00 Ken

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 David Allan's Country Club 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Ronald Isley — The Celebrity Soul Show 9.30 The White House 10.00 Ken 11.00 Ken 12.00 Ken

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00 Race on Five 4.00 Julian Worricker Nationwide 7.00 News 7.30 On the Line 8.00 David Gower's Cricket Weekly 9.00 Inside Edge 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours with Vincent Hanna 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wan 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe 7.00 World Today 7.30 Menden Books 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Tuning a Tune 9.30 Hot New Country 10.05 Business 10.15 Dying Notes 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 11.30 Discovery 12.00am News 12.15 12.45 C.O. 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain 1.30 Record News 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Tuning a Tune 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Britain 6.05 Business 6.15 World Today 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sport 7.30 Assignment 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 John Peel 9.00 Newsday 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 Menden Books 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00am Outlook 12.30 Vintage Chart Show 1.30am Tuning a Tune 1.45 Britain 2.30 The Works 3.30 Focus on Film 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark O'Neill 6.00 Alan Martin 9.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto Gershwin (Piano Concerto in F), Lalo (Cello Concerto in D minor) 3.00 Jamie Cick 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Sonata: Tchaikovsky (Oboe Sonata in G minor, from Tchaikovsky 11.00 Evening Concerto: Beethoven (Overture, L'Olympique), Stravinsky (Pulchra), Anna (Organ Concerto No 2 in G major), Purcell (Come Ye Sons of Art Away), J.S. Bach (Violin Concerto in E) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Concerto in F

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00am Richard Porter

RADIO 3

5.15 In Tune. Presented by Nicola Heywood Thomas from outside St David's Hall, home of this year's Cardiff Singer of the World competition. Includes interviews with some of the judges and five music from Regent Brass. 7.30 BBC Philharmonic. A concert given at York University last year. Mendelssohn (Overture), The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave, conducted by Lionel Friend. Donny Ray Albert, baritone, Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4 in F minor), conductor Edward Downes. 9.05 Gardens in the Ashes. In the fourth of five programmes about writing in the British Isles, Celia Hawkesworth introduces readings from the Croatian author Dubravka Ugreas. Read by Sonia Ritter. 9.25 Haydn and Bartok. Olga Dudnik, piano. Includes Haydn (Piano Sonata, in A flat, H.XVI.43; in D, H.XVI.42; Bartok (Studies) (I). 10.00 Music Restored. The Orlando Consort performs a selection of sacred music by Flemish composers Pierre de la Rue, including sections from his *Missa Ave Sanctissima* and *Missa Sancta Anna*. 10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright discusses the creativity of Harlem in the 1920s as a new cultural hub. *Rhapsodies in Black* at the Harlem Renaissance, opens at the Hayward Gallery in London. 11.30 Composer of the Week: Ravel (I). 12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces the final part of a concert given last May at the Purcell Rooms in London, by the Michael Garrick Jazz Orchestra and the vocalists Jacqui Dankworth. 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes 1.00 Cardiff Singer of the World 3.00 Choral Evensong (I).

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite and his team of investigators (I) 9.30 Relatively Speaking, See Choice 10.00 News, Travels with My Aunt (FM), by Graham Greene. Starring Dame Hilda Bracken (S/S) 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenny Murray 10.50-1.00pm Test Match Special (LW). England v Australia. Coverage of the morning session of the first day's play in the second Test at Lord's. 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent (FM). News from BBC reporters around the world 12.00 News, You and Yours (FM). Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm The Heritage Quiz (FM). See Choice 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.15-1.30pm Test Match Special (LW). Continued coverage from Lord's 1.40 The Archers (FM) (I) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News, Times 2.15pm Afternoon Play: Raskolnikov's Axe (FM), by Christopher Fitz-Simon. The story of a man who joins an amateur production of *Crime and Punishment*, and finds himself identifying with the leading role a little too much. With Bill Guttery 3.00 News, The Afternoon Shift (FM), with Daire Brennan and guests 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope (FM). Paul Allen reviews Tony Kushner's adaptation of Corneille's *The Ruseur* at the Royal Exchange in Manchester 4.45 Short Story: The Trouble with Wagner (FM), by Patricia Hannah. Read by Vivienne Dixon 5.00 PM (FM), with Jon Sopel and Nigel Wrench 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Talking It Up the Octave. The second of a five-part drama by Fritan Coyle and Tom Miles. Opera Sunderland's Carmen is coming along but backstage, the tensions on the threat and bargain-basement cattle leave the cast rather preoccupied 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Lilliput. The first of six radio biographies in which the private life of a public face is revealed. Nick Baker tells the story of the celebrated television cook Fanny Cradock 8.00 Analysis. In the first of two programmes about the single currency, Nigella Woods examines the political arguments for monetary union 8.45 Another String. Roy Bailey reflects on his two careers, as a professor of sociology and as a radical folk singer (4/5) 9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove 9.30 Kaleidoscope (I) 9.55 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Peter Lush 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sandy Bottom. A collection of stories by Graham Kerr and Jenny Lind Nilsson. Read by Barbara Barnes (4/10) 11.00 Today in Parliament (LW). A roundup of the day's news from Westminster 11.00 Full-Fledged Days of Harriet Knight (FM). The third of a four-part comedy series by Carol Noble, with Emma Chambers and Jane Whitshaw 11.30 Offspring. The last of the present series about family life. With John Peel (I) 12.00 News and 12.30am The Late Book: The Information. William Nighty reads the novel by Martin Amis (14/15) (I) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 105. MW 720. RADIO 5. LIVE. MW 585, 605. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 196 (12.45-5.56am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Something nasty behind the cuckoo clock

Switzerland is the Japan of Europe. Both are smallish, hilly countries with few natural resources, but still somehow hugely rich and powerful. They share an insular mentality that cracks open to permit international commerce. Both the Swiss and the Japanese willingly swap civil freedoms for an orderly, evenly policed, low-crime society. They are so much part of the Western community that we feel we know them as well as we do Americans, or the French. But when we see the Swiss stacking their regulation-length logs, or grissing on neighbours for hanging their laundry out on the wrong day, or when we wonder how a nation as courteous as the Japanese could have committed the Nanking massacre, we realise we have little clue how either of these peoples thinks.

Anyone who wanted to maintain their image of the Swiss as peace-loving neutrals might have done

best to avoid Nazi Gold (BBC1). This *Inside Story Special* told how the Swiss not only acted as Hitler's bankers — eagerly taking in Nazi gold, some of it levered with pliers from the mouths of inmates of the concentration camps; not only prolonged the war by financing the Nazi war machine and selling it arms; not only allowed Hitler's death trains to pass through "neutral" Switzerland; not only deported Jewish refugees back to Germany and refused others entry at the border; but also told how the Swiss later denied the descendants of Holocaust victims money that their parents had deposited in the "safe haven" of Switzerland.

When, after the war, the orphaned Jews murdered in Auschwitz and Treblinka came to collect money their parents had squirreled away in Swiss banks in the 1930s (when they still had hopes of escaping Germany and building a new life elsewhere), the Swiss

authorities could find no records of any such bank accounts. Yes, the Swiss — who probably still keep cantonal archives of parking tickets issued 60 years ago — could dig up no documents to indicate such accounts had ever existed.

To people who had lost their families to Hitler's madness, the pain must have been due less to the loss of their cash than to the icy realisation that human nature was about to disappoint them all over again. And what was it that made the Swiss finally remember that, yes, maybe they *did* have a few dormant accounts? The news that the head of Washington's Senate Banking Committee was spitting when he unearthed the breadth of Switzerland's shamelessness. When Swiss bankers feared that their branches in Wall Street would be closed, they came clean[ish].

The terrain was similar to that

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

covered recently by Tom Bower in his chilling book *Blood Money: The Swiss, the Nazis and the Looted Billions*. But Bower's name did not appear in the credits, so presumably he was not involved. The producer and director Christopher Olcott, a stylish filmmaker who previously made *Spy* and *Goodbye to the President*, about Marilyn Monroe's last days — maintained the pace of a shock-

minute thriller without ever forgetting that he, like Bower, was relating one of the last untold scandals of the Holocaust.

Israel Singer, the secretary of the World Jewish Congress, said that if the Swiss had not been diligently servicing the Nazis' financial needs by accepting their gold and managing it in looted paintings, while at the same time selling German armaments, "the war would have been considerably shorter, the number of deaths would have been considerably smaller: not just Jewish deaths — American and British soldiers would have died in smaller numbers. There's just no question about it." Even Hitler's henchmen agreed. The head of the Nazi state bank admitted that they could not have survived for longer than two months without Switzerland, "particularly not the conversion of gold into hard currency".

It was a story that left you so

gasping for breath that even the roof of the world seemed airy by comparison. In *Hillary and Tenzing*, BBC2's *Reputations* team had fewer curtains to peek behind than the lives of Bertrand Russell and Dr Spock had recently afforded them.

The story of the 1953 ascent of Everest by the New Zealand beakster and the Nepalese Sherpa is well documented, as is the subsequent frenzied media speculation and sniping about which of them reached the summit first. But there has been frenzy for years, since Tenzing admitted long ago that Hillary got there one step ahead of him, but also that, in the roped-together world of mountain-climbing, that was irrelevant. But it was beautiful to watch, and reminded you how reaching the top is sometimes not as tricky as coping with being back at the bottom. Which leads us directly to

Roseanne (Channel 4), who, like an eagerly welcomed guest who has lingered a little too long, should have picked up her coat and said *adieu* long before this 22ist and final episode. This one-hour special, in which the Conner family learnt that Darlene and David's new baby, Harris Conner Healy, was finally strong enough to come home, drew together the strings of the past nine years and got them in a terrible tangle. Roseanne's marvellous monologues were gloopy: "To have the family all here together and everybody being healthy, that's more important than winning the lottery 100 times," she said. "I learnt that dreams don't work without action. I learnt that nobody could stop me other than me. I learnt that love is stronger than hate. And, most important, I learnt that God does exist. He and/or she is right inside you." God bless you, Roseanne, but goodnight. No, really.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (51797)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (51755)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5562364)
- 9.20 Chuggers' Challenge Chuggin's make-over team transform a garage into a playroom (341548)
- 9.45 Kilroy (1) (5935635)
- 10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (91155)
- 11.00 News (T): Regional News and weather (292797)
- 11.05 The Great Escape Sydney (791780)
- 11.35 Royal Ascot A preview of Ladies' Day, including a look at the runners in the Gold Cup (4313074)
- 12.00 News (T): Regional News and weather (1556722)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5692426)
- 12.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (4456242)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (58242)
- 1.30 Regional News (15510513)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (3688432)
- 1.45 Royal Ascot Coverage of the 2.30 Ribblesdale Stakes, 3.05 Norfolk Stakes and 3.45 Ascot Gold Cup (41168936)
- 4.00 Popeye (5934955) 4.10 Plasmio (6143522) 4.15 The New Yogi Bess Show (5925200) 4.20 Lila Jackson and Heriel (1) (1) (5236242) 4.35 Return to Jupiter (1) (6814722)
- 5.00 Westminster Special (2297819)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (333109)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (432)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (884)
- 7.00 Watchdog Healthcheck Alice Beer and the team put more medical matters under the microscope (1) (7258)
- 7.30 EastEnders Grant and Tiffany try to make the best of their domestic arrangements (1) (628)
- 8.00 Crime Beat Marilyn Lewis presents footage from hidden cameras (1) (6906)
- 8.30 Airport Continuing the second documentary series filmed at Heathrow airport (1) (2513)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (703)
- 9.30 The Jasper Carrott Trial Highlights from the *Burnside* comedian's stand-up routines (1) (22513)
- 10.00 Smith and Jones News series of comedy from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (8354)
- 10.30 Noel's Le Mans Dream Team Noel Edmonds's team face the ultimate challenge as race day dawns at Le Mans. Putting pre-qualifying giggles with the spectacular Panos car firmly behind them, Jeremy Clarkson, Gary Rhodes, Mark Porter and Derek Bell gear up for 24 hours of action (49877)
- 10.55 Question Time David Dimbleby chairs the topical discussion as Martin Bell, MP, and the historian Linda Colley join the panel in London for the last of the series (1) (861828)
- 11.55 Royal Ascot Highlights from Ladies' Day featuring the Gold Cup (19277)
- 12.20am Le Mans (1971) Steve McQueen stars in this race-track drama. With Siegfried Rauch and Elga Andersen. Directed by Lee H. Katzin (37638)
- 2.05 Weather (284933)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. The Video PlusCodes for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V), Pluscode (P) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (305513) 9.00 Regis and Kaithe Les (2108) 10.00 Another World (7074) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (8023) 12.00 Oprah Winfrey (42938)
- 1.00pm Gordo (5690) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (5690) 3.00 Jerry Jones (5690) 4.00am News (770) 5.00am The New Generation (4703) 6.00am Real TV (702) 7.00 The Simpsons (3422) 7.30am MAFS (1180) 8.30 The Nanny (867) 9.00am Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 11.00am Star Trek: The Next Generation (702) 12.00 The Lucy Show (5677) 12.30am L.A.P.D. (1500) 1.00am Hi Hi Hi (125458)

SKY 2

- 7.00pm Superboy (475819) 7.30pm Superboy (475819) 8.00pm Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 8.30pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (702) 9.00pm Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 9.30pm Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 10.00pm Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 10.30pm Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 11.00pm Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 11.30pm Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 12.00am Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 12.30am Star Trek: Voyager (1180) 1.00am Star Trek: Voyager (1180)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

- 6.00am Grizzly Mountain (1989) (45884)
- 7.00am The Spy with a Cold Nose (1949) (45884)
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RACING 46

Rebecca Sharp crowned in Coronation Stakes

SPORT

THURSDAY JUNE 19 1997

ATHLETICS 47

Black invests heavily with best intentions



Atherton determined to turn the tide of history with rare success at Lord's

England find fitting stage for revival

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE dauntless mood of the thousands descending on Lord's this morning, suddenly dismissive of precedent, portent and anything else linked with an irrelevant cricketing past, was aptly summarised yesterday by David Graveney, the chairman of the England selectors. "We're keen to change history," he said.

For English cricket, this is the best of days. Providing the weather forecast is mistaken, and at least this corner of north London escapes the threatened rain, the atmosphere will be unparalleled. Australia have been vanquished once and the nation's appetite for the summer game renewed, exudes a belief that they will be again.

Certainly, there could be no finer stage, no more appropriate moment for these England players to confirm that they have graduated from the nursery slopes of Test cricket. This is Lord's, where Australia have lost only once this century; and this is Michael Atherton's 42nd Test as captain, breaking a record that has stood for 36 years.

It must seem like Christmas, not least in the reinvigorated England dressing-room, which is why Graveney's bald statement is one of ambition rather than intent, and why David Lloyd, the coach, continues to give daily warning that Australia are the best side in the world and "will come back at us hard". Hands off

the presents, they caution, the recapture of the Ashes has only just begun.

These are wise words, wiser and far less jarring than some of those uttered this week by men who recently filled the shoes of Graveney and Lloyd. Whether it was the publication of Atherton's biography that provoked such sourness from Raymond Illingworth and Fred Timmus, or the fact that he is about to claim Peter May's record for longevity.

Atherton did not know May, but there is, today, a poignancy to the fact that May died on the second day of a Melbourne Test match that ranks among Atherton's lowest points as captain. "I remember standing for the minute's silence after his death," he said. "I also remember the silence in our dressing-room at the end of the game."

England had been heavily beaten for the second successive Test. Shane Warne was rampant and the Ashes were decidedly not coming home. Atherton looked inconceivably glum and, on that late December day in 1994, the thought that he might, three years on, surpass May's 41 Tests as captain must have seemed risible.

It is indicative of his character that he has soldiered on, without complaint, through the bad and often divided times, and to reach his destiny after three successive Test wins, with a united team and much public admiration, is tribute in itself. There is no point in comparing Atherton's win ratio with that of another

time, a different strength of opposition. He has no wish to respond to Timmus and he need not bother. Atherton knows, however, how fast things can change. He is also aware of England's record at headquarters and he has an explanation: "It's not that we get blasé about playing here but we do get the opportunity fairly regularly. For some of these Australians, it will be their one and only chance. They are bound to be fired up."

Lloyd is inclined to banish the spectre before it can prey on minds. "It concerns other people rather than us," he said. "I find it quite boring." Supporters can rest assured that he will be reinforcing the message, telling his charges that the past is immaterial.

Darren Gough and Robert Croft will be critical figures again, for they have commanded both respect and anxiety from the Australia batsmen and must maximise it. Whether Croft will have Philip Tufnell as a spin partner remains in question; it is likelier, given the weather, that England will be unchanged.

The style and speed with which Atherton and Alec Stewart swept England to their target at Edgbaston cannot be understated. It was a small score to make but theirs was a resounding statement of supremacy and Australia will have sore ears from it. Atherton yesterday exhorted the Lord's crowds to support his side fervently but fairly. "I don't want any booing of the Australians," he said. "They have some fine players." Indeed they do. They will come back hard and they now have a bowler, in Paul Reiffel, so adept in England that he should have been here from the start. Warne has begun taking wickets. Mark Taylor is scoring runs. Slowly, from improbably poor beginnings, they are improving.

England, however, have damaged Australian confidence gravely; they must now overcome the equalising factor of their Lord's record to emerge with their lead intact.

In May's mould, page 48
Hard man to hold, page 48
County reports, pages 48-49

Reiffel: late arrival

Atherton takes a quirky view of England's practice session at Lord's yesterday

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Platt tops list to take over at The Dell

By DAVID MADDOCK

DAVID PLATT has entered into talks with Southampton over the vacant managerial position at the club. Rupert Lowe, the Southampton chairman, will indicate today that the Arsenal player heads his list of candidates.

Lowe travelled to the Caribbean to interview Platt last week. The England international has discussed the possibility of becoming player-manager at The Dell with an experienced figure, fulfilling the role of director of football. That may signal the return of Lawrie McMenemy, who resigned from the post when Graeme Souness vacated the manager's job.

Lowe, who has promised to announce a successor to Souness before the end of the week, said: "One option is a younger player-manager with an experienced man alongside him. I have spoken to Lawrie McMenemy regularly since he left the club and it could be that he returns in that role." McMenemy has said that he regrets his decision to depart.

Arsenal will require a £2 million fee for Platt. Arsene Wenger, the manager, is happy to sell the player, but the club wants to recoup some of its £4 million outlay of two seasons ago.

England have risen to seventh in the latest Fifa world rankings, which were issued yesterday. The heady position reflects their performance in the European championship last summer.

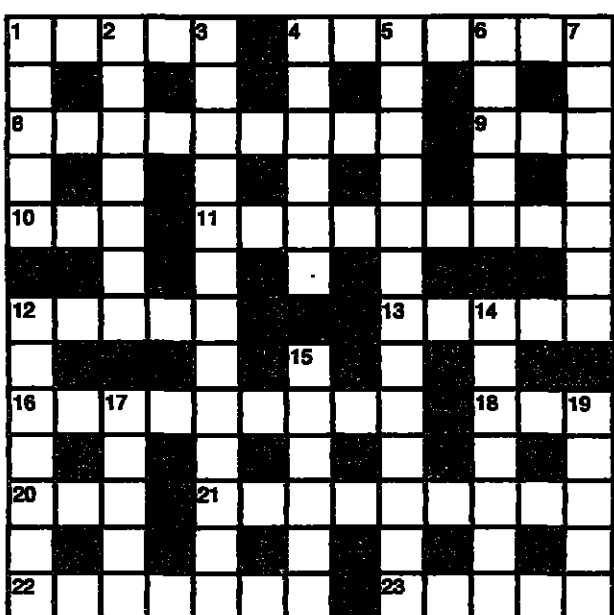
Colin Harvey has been appointed director of youth football at Everton. Nottingham Forest have confirmed that Brian Roy, their Holland international, will be joining Hertha Berlin, while Leicester City have bid £2.5 million for Andy Johnson, the Norwich City defender.

Manchester United confirmed yesterday that they have withdrawn from negotiations to sign Markus Babbel, the Germany international defender, from Bayern Munich. Rangers continued their summer spending spree last night when they signed Marco Negri, the Perugia striker, for £3.7 million.

Michael Owen and Paul Shephard scored the goals that gave England Under-20s a 2-1 victory against Ivory Coast in their opening match in group F of the World Youth Cup in Malaysia yesterday.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1124 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Country: a laquer (5)
- 4 Secondary storyline (7)
- 5 Regret (the time when) (3,3,3)
- 9 Bigwig (1,1,1)
- 10 Word of assent (5)
- 11 Soviet St Petersburg (9)
- 12 Extra pay as reward (5)
- 13 Reckoning, total: correspond (5)
- 16 Different, unrelated (9)
- 18 Joke: suppress (3)
- 20 Possess (3)
- 21 Create a fuss (5,4)
- 22 Definite: resolved (7)
- 23 Gatehouse: stay night (at) (5)

DOWN

- 1 Spasmodic (5)
- 2 Keep going without delay (5,2)
- 3 (Fighting) without limitations (2,5,6)
- 4 Rail truck park (6)
- 5 In the (unknown) hereafter (6,3,4)
- 6 Pivoted bar (5)
- 7 Without enthusiasm, hear (7)
- 12 Bunyan imprisoned here (7)
- 14 One not keeping up (7)
- 15 Assorted (6)
- 17 Relating to sound (5)
- 19 Wish-granting spirit (5)

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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1123

ACROSS: 1 Washer 5 Locket 8 Gamy 9 Crofters 10 Chantry 11 Churn 13 Discoloured 16 Swats 18 On the go 21 Intimate 22 Date 23 Warhol 24 Messrs
DOWN: 2 Abashed 3 Haydn 4 Race riot 5 Loop 6 Catcher 7 Error 12 Moonbeam 14 Sottish 15 Dog star 17 Wanda 19 Hades 20 Rail

Henman extols good practice

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

AFTER a second-round victory in the Nottingham Open that, in the end, could scarcely have been narrower, Tim Henman laughed. "Preparation spot on course, as last year," he said. What had begun as a stroll yesterday turned into a stiff test of character that Henman was relieved to have passed 6-4, 6-7, 7-6.

For about an hour the British No.1, playing what he admitted was "competent tennis rather than anything spectacular", looked safe enough against Richard Fromberg. Henman was conspicuous by his absence in a low-key contest. Once or twice missed volleys let Fromberg off the hook but there was, surely, nothing to worry about.

It was not the pre-injury Henman, at least it was all going to be over in two sets, unlike his previous match against Andrew Richardson, and this against an opponent ranked, at No.101, only five places lower than Jens

Knippschild, who beat Henman in the Stella Artois championships at Queen's Club.

Both sets had followed identical patterns, with Henman breaking in the third game of each, until he suddenly and inexplicably found himself 40-0 down on his own service, unable to prevent Fromberg from breaking back to 4-4.

"It's very frustrating," Henman said. "I'm having to battle and fight as hard as I can just to hang in there. You're looking to close out the match and then suddenly you get yourself into a tight situation."

Now, nearly followed, Henman needing to save two

break points on his next service game after leading 40-0. When he won the next service game to love to force a tie-break, one was tempted to wonder why he had messed about in the previous two.

However, by the time the players changed round at 3-3, Henman having just volleyed wildly, it was to silence, the crowd only finding its voice when Henman faced the first of three Fromberg set points that he saved and a fourth that he could not.

It looked all over when Henman lost the fifth game of the final set, but he somehow managed to come back, breaking Fromberg as the Australian served for the match at 5-4, then taking the tie-break 7-4. There was no way off the hook for Fromberg this time.

"You've got to keep fighting and that's just what I did," Henman said. "I got one chance to break back at 5-4 and I took it. But I'm in the next round." There he will meet Grant Stafford, of South Africa.

The extra practice, Henman said, could prove a blessing in disguise. "Quite a few matches recently have been real tests of character. Sometimes the game can come easily, opportunities are taken, you're hitting the ball well. I wouldn't have made some of those errors. At the moment it's a battle and I'm not scared to admit that. I was playing the basics and that's what you have to do."

Greg Rusedski's win against Mark Woodforde was more straightforward, a break in the first set and his second match point in the second-set tie-break enough to send the British No.2 through to meet Jason Stoltenberg today.

Muster forced out

THOMAS MUSTER, the No.6 seed, has pulled out of the Wimbledon Championships, which start on Monday, after sustaining an injury to his left hip, playing in the Heineken Trophy in Holland.

Jonas Bjorkman, as the next eligible player to be seeded,

takes the Austrian's place in the singles draw and will face Chris Wilkinson, of Great Britain, in the first round.

Jennifer Capriati has also withdrawn, having failed to recover from an injury to her right leg that she suffered at the Italian Open.

McColgan calls time on track career

LIZ MCCOLGAN has abandoned all thought of competing in the world championships in Athens in August and indicated yesterday that she has reached the end of her international track career (David Powell writes). McColgan, whose career highlight so far was her victory in the 10,000 metres in the 1991 Tokyo world championships, confirmed that she would not attempt to regain the title, concentrating on a November marathon instead.

McColgan was involved in the most thrilling finish in women's marathon history in April, when she finished runner-up by one second to Joyce Chepchumba, of Kenya, in the Flora London Marathon. The next day McColgan said that she would not be running the distance in Athens but would probably opt for the 10,000 metres.

However, after undergoing a minor back operation last week, she has withdrawn from the British 10,000 metres trial in Sheffield on June 29, when she would have needed to run an Athens qualifying time of 32min 30sec. The Tokyo Marathon will be her next big target, on November

30. "I firmly believe this is my one and only distance for the future," McColgan, who was sixth over 25 laps at the last world championships, in 1995, said.

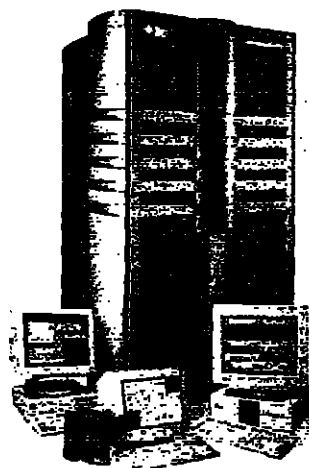
McColgan, 33, has yet to produce a marathon to match her finest track performances, which include an Olympic silver medal, and she said after London: "In my next marathon, I would like the opportunity to run a fast time. That rules out Athens because of the pollution and the course." To prepare for Tokyo, McColgan will take part in the Bupa Great Run series.



McColgan: marathon only

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